

## Lawson aims tax cuts at creating jobs

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Mr Nigel Lawson, will present an extremely buoyant picture of Britain's economic prospects in his Budget speech tomorrow.

The sharp fall in oil prices, while removing his scope for large net tax cuts, carries substantial, longer-term benefits for the economy.

The Treasury's forecast is expected to show inflation heading down to 3 per cent next year and growth in the economy continuing at about 3 per cent.

The Chancellor will have two main aims in the Budget. The first is to convince the financial markets that the Government's medium-term strategy remains on course. The second is to aim at reducing unemployment.

In addition, Mr Lawson will present proposals for the long-term reform of personal taxation, in the form of a green paper, with the Treasury recommending a switch to transferable allowances for married couples.

The Chancellor will present targets for the two money supply measures, M3 and M4. He will also stick close to his estimate for public sector borrowing of £7.5 billion.

This means that there is little scope for net reductions in tax. Instead, the Chancellor is expected to announce selective reductions in tax and national insurance, with the emphasis on creating jobs, paid for by higher excise duties.

Mr Lawson has been considering the reintroduction of a reduced rate band of income tax of 25 pence in the pound on the first few hundred pounds of taxable income. But he is expected to settle for raising income tax allowances and thresholds by more than

inflation, generally considered to be the best way of alleviating the so-called poverty and employment traps.

A 10 per cent increase in allowances would lift the single person's allowance by £220 to £2,425. This compares with the £130 rise needed just to compensate for inflation.

On excise duties, the Budget is likely to result in an increase in petrol prices of at least 10 pence a gallon, 10 pence on a packet of cigarettes, spirits up by about 50 pence a bottle and beer by 2 pence a pint. The road fund licence is likely to rise by £10.

The Budget is also expected to include an investment package, including halving the stamp duty on share purchases to 0.5 per cent and an extension of the Business Expansion Scheme.

Specific employment measures will include extending the Job Start scheme - currently on trial in pilot areas around the country - and a publicity campaign designed to make people more aware of the various job schemes on offer.

Modifications to last year's changes in national insurance, which are designed to increase the demand for workers, particularly the low paid, are also expected.

## French right head for power

From Diana Geddes

Early poll projections in the French general election yesterday suggested that right-wing parties could win an absolute National Assembly majority by the narrowest of margins.

Shortly after the polls closed, the Ministry of the Interior gave a provisional turnout figure of 81 per cent, well above the 70 per cent of the 1981 general election.

Projections based on polls of voters after polling gave the centre-right UDF and Gaullist RPR parties 42-43 per cent, which would translate to just the 289 seats required for an absolute majority.

They can expect, however, to see good returns from the 22 seats in overseas départements and territories not included in the leaving polls, as well as some 6-8 seats from smaller right-wing parties.

The UDF and RPR have refused to consider any alliance with the extreme right National Front, which is expected to win 9-11 per cent.

This is a significant success for the party, which three years ago rarely took more than 2 per cent, but can now expect to enter the National Assembly for the first time with some 35 deputies.

The Socialists are projected to take 30-31 per cent. That is well below the exceptional 37 per cent in 1981, but will make them the biggest single party with about 210 seats.

The main losers seem to be the Communists, who are expected to take only 10-11 per cent of the vote.



President Mitterrand leaving the booth after casting his vote at Chateau-Chinon, central France.

## Thatcher firm against BA buy-out hope

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The Prime Minister will tell Lord King of Warrnaby, chairman of British Airways, today that she will not reverse the decision to delay privatization of the state airline and will not support his attempts to put together a management buy-out.

Lord King, whose buy-out plan came to light on Friday after the decision of Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, to delay the sell-off indefinitely, was granted an urgent meeting with Mrs Thatcher today. She is, however, certain to stand by her minister while repeating her belief that the airline should be sold quickly and to as wide a cross-section of shareholders as possible.

A Downing Street spokesman said yesterday: "I see no sign of Lord King having anything to put to her that will change her mind."

Lord King, once widely regarded as one of the Prime Minister's favourite businessmen, will probably repeat his view to Mrs Thatcher that as a result of the decision to delay, the buy-out plan is the only way to achieve quick and successful privatization.

British Airways declined to give details of the buy-out proposal yesterday but did not deny that initially the plan would be to raise up to £350 million through the sale of 51 per cent of the company to employees and City institutions under a scheme drawn up by Phillips & Drew, the stockbrokers. A spokesman said that no bid for the airline had yet been made.

Lord King will go from his meeting with Mrs Thatcher to a presentation to City brokers and analysts at the Glaziers' Hall in London at which the full details of the scheme will be disclosed. The presentation was arranged some time ago and long before Mr Ridley's announcement.

In particular, Lord King is expected to play down the concern of the Government

over the Bermuda Two negotiations with the United States on North Atlantic routes, but this and other factors have persuaded Mr Ridley and the Prime Minister that privatization at the moment is too risky.

Weekend reports emphasizing the personality clash between Lord King and Mr Ridley produced an angry response from British Airways.

"We are very annoyed at the way this is being personalized. We think that the Government is committed to privatization and we also are committed and we think that it is only fair that all proposals are looked at."

The buy-out scheme, believed to have won considerable initial City support despite the £450 million of debt on the British Airways balance sheet, is understood to have been masterminded largely by Mr Gordon Dunlop, British Airways' finance director. It envisages that the 35,000 workers and management would subscribe about £35 million and that the remaining 49 per cent of the airline would be sold early next year.

One senior manager at British Airways said yesterday that junior and middle level management probably would support a buy-out, but at senior level the plan was not well received. In recent times, he said, top management had been instructed to "keep the lid on" sensitive and possibly troublesome issues in an attempt to smooth the path for privatization.

Problems such as dealing with an across-the-board pay demand of up to 25 per cent from pilots and cabin crews, and the huge expense of investigating and repairing the structural defects that have been discovered on some 747 aircraft were also believed to have played a part in Mr Ridley's decision, he said.

## Weapons found after Wapping protest

By John Young

Commander Algernon Hemmings, in charge of the police during Saturday night's demonstration by an estimated 7,000 people outside the News International plant in Wapping, east London, last night displayed some of the weapons taken from demonstrators.

They included iron bars, lead piping, pieces of scaffolding, a railing spike, broken bottles, sticks, shotgun cartridges, marbles and a flare canister. Commander Hem-

ingway said that he saw the flare being detonated and fortunately it had a fairly high trajectory: had it been lower, it could have caused serious injuries.

He could only speculate about the purpose of the cartridges: nobody had been arrested with a gun.

The occasion had on the whole been similar to the previous big demonstration three weeks earlier, except that there did not seem to be as

Continued on page 2, col 7

## MP who named doctor in child abuse case accused

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Mr Geoffrey Dickens, the MP who last week used parliamentary privilege to name a doctor alleged to have raped a girl aged 8, was last night accused of "disgraceful and irresponsible" behaviour by a Conservative colleague who first raised the case.

Mr Norman St John-Stevens, MP for Chelmsford and a former Leader of the Commons, plans to write to Mr Dickens today to officially complain about his conduct.

But last night an unrepentant Mr Dickens said it was his duty to name the doctor, and disclosed that he planned to name a vicar in the Commons this afternoon who is alleged to have committed sex offences involving children.

The mother of the girl allegedly raped by the doctor went to see Mr St John-Stevens in his constituency last month. The MP subsequently wrote to the police and to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

"Mr Dickens has behaved quite disgracefully. This was, as far as I was concerned, a highly confidential surgery case," Mr St John-Stevens said.

It is an unwritten rule, strictly observed at Westminster, that an MP should never become involved in other MPs' constituency business without first consulting them.

"He never consulted me in any way. He should have come and seen me," Mr St John-Stevens said.

"It is very irresponsible because we don't know whether he is guilty or not and one does not know the other effects this will have."

Mr Dickens, MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, said: "I didn't choose to name the doctor until Norman had been extensively quoted as saying he could take the case no further. I then decided to take it further. I only did it after a lot of heart searching."

Mr Dickens said he planned to name the vicar during

Commons questions to Sir Michael Havers, Attorney General, after receiving new information about the alleged offences yesterday.

It was revealed yesterday that the vicar at the centre of the allegations, involving a boy aged 11, had twice defied Dr John Habgood, Archbishop of York, and refused to resign.

A spokesman for Dr Habgood said the Archbishop had "invited" the North Humber vicar to resign some months ago when he was told of the matter by the Bishops of Hull and the Archbishop of the East Riding.

The Director of Public Prosecutions advised against bringing charges after a police investigation.

Childwatch, the national organization against child abuse, said yesterday that it would support a private prosecution and a claim for compensation by the boy's parents if no charges were brought.

Vicar's message, page 2

## Big Swiss vote says 'no' to UN

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

The Swiss surprised themselves yesterday by the size of the majority - 75.7 per cent - voting against the proposal that Switzerland become a full member of the United Nations with a General Assembly seat instead merely of having observer status.

The turnout was 50.2 per cent, relatively high compared with the average for "direct democracy" referendums. Geneva is the centre for such principal UN specialized agencies as the World Health Organization, of which Switzerland has been a full member for years, and is estimated to make some £360 million annually from UN-related activities. But it could produce no more than 30.2 per cent of votes in favour.

"International circles will not easily understand this," said Mr Christian Grobet, president of the municipal council.

The largest support, 40.8 per cent, was in the Jura canton. Appenzell, in the rural heartland, returned 89.3 per cent against. In Zurich it was 71.3 per cent "no".

The countrywide total was 1,591,428 votes against, and 511,548 in favour of full UN membership.

In the weeks before the poll even UN supporters became convinced that they had made no progress against the deep feeling that neutrality before, during and after two world wars had served Switzerland so well that UN politics was better avoided.

The referendum was the culmination of a procedure initiated with a Government commission report in 1977 favouring UN membership. This was approved by main political parties and endorsed two years ago by Parliament, but as a major foreign affairs proposal, it had to go to a nationwide vote.

## Reagan plea for \$100 million Contra aid

From Michael Binyon, Washington

As President Reagan delivered a nationwide television address last night appealing for \$100 million (£66 million) in aid to the Nicaraguan rebels, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee offered a compromise to get the controversial Bill through Congress.

Senator Richard Lugar proposed yesterday that all the money should be given to the Contras, but the \$70m in military aid be later withheld if the Sandinista Government agreed to a series of changes.

He rejected as counterproductive other proposed compromises that delayed the

aid in the hope of negotiations.

"Adding all kinds of strings and certifications will only hinder the effectiveness of the US to act," the Republican senator said. His support is seen in the White House as crucial to the vote on the aid on Wednesday.

President Reagan said in his weekly radio address on Saturday that he had fresh evidence that Sandinista security agents had dressed as "freedom fighters" to "murder and mutilate" Nicaraguan civilians.

He had, he said, sent US envoys to Central America 49 times, holding 10 high-level

meetings in the past two years.

"Each time we left empty handed," he said. "The time has come to give the freedom fighters what they need for their struggle."

But in the Democrats' response to his talk, Representative Thomas Foley of Washington State said the Administration was trying to expand this proxy war with American money and weapons, in which at best "only a bloody stalemate" could be achieved. "Incredibly, we may be walking into the quicksand with our eyes wide open," he claimed.

Helping reforms, page 5

## Sotheby's discover an unknown Old Master

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Sotheby's believe that they have discovered a wholly unknown painting by Mantegna, one of the greatest masters of the Italian Renaissance. His "Adoration of the Magi" was sold at Christie's last year for £8.1 million, the highest auction price on record for a painting.

The Sotheby's picture, "The Holy Family with St Elizabeth and St John", is thought to date from about 1500. Like the "Adoration", it was originally painted in tempera on linen, a technique much favoured by Mantegna when he was working at the court of Mantua towards the end of his life.

However, the original fragile surface has vanished under heavy repainting in oils and a covering of thick varnish. It is not known how far the paint-



Detail from Mantegna's "Holy Family with St Elizabeth and St John", expected to sell for around £500,000.

ing can be recovered by sophisticated restoration. Sotheby's have decided not to attempt cleaning the painting before the auction. It will thus be up to bidders to decide for themselves how far they are prepared to gamble on what can be excavated below the varnish and the repaint.

A photograph of the painting was first sent to Mr Eric Turquin, head of Sotheby's Old Master department, last year. It was in Marseilles and had been inherited by the uncle of a friend of his in a family division 10 years ago.

Mr Turquin was immediately interested and the Paris representative of Sotheby's travelled to Marseilles and came back with the picture. It had been valued in 1909 by a local expert who had attributed it to the school of Mantegna but described it as "restored by vandals".

Then began a long period of investigation and discussion. The painting has been brought to London with a temporary export licence from France and passed as a Mantegna by Philip Pooncey, a leading expert who works for

Sotheby's. It has also spent a fortnight with Mr Herbert Lank, a highly regarded restorer in London, who has prepared a three-page condition report on it.

Mr Turquin intends to publish the report so that potential buyers can assess their chances of recovering the painting.

Mr Lank has cleaned a tiny area of paint at the side of the picture to reveal the original tempera below. "Much of the repaint covers quite well preserved original paint," he says.

The painting is scheduled for sale by Sotheby's in Monte Carlo on June 22. It will require an export licence to leave France but the Looze already possesses an exceptional range of paintings by Mantegna.



THE TIMES

Today there are further major improvements in the presentation of the new two-section Times.

The Times Information Service and the crossword are on the back page of the first section (page 16).

For the first time Sport takes the pole position on the back page of the second section (page 32).

Television and radio programmes remain on the inside back page (page 31) and the preceding pages offer readers the fullest and most comprehensive sports service.

From today, too, advertisements of births, marriages and deaths appear on the court and social page (page 14). Business and City news begins on the front page of the second section (page 17).

The changes are part of the expansion resulting from the end of restrictions following the move to Wapping. They make the newspaper more attractive and convenient to readers. A coupon to order *The Times* from your newsagent appears on page 2.

TUESDAY

**Ladies of the courts**  
The rivalry between Chris and Martina

**The Budget speech**  
A plain man's guide

WEDNESDAY

**Chancellor's changes**  
Eight pages of analysis

## Portfolio

The Times Portfolio weekly and daily competition prizes were not won on Saturday. Today's prize will therefore be £4,000 and the weekly next Saturday £40,000. Portfolio list, page 22; rules and how to play, information service, page 16.

Home News	2-4	Letters	13
Overseas	5-9	Obituaries	14
Arts	14	Parliament	14
Business	17-22	Press Board	16
China	2	Religion	14
Court	34	Science	28-32
Crosswords	10, 16	Sport	33
Diet	12	TV & Radio	36
Law Report	9	Weather	36
Leaders	13	Wills	14

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## Conservative MPs aim to have family credit paid to mothers

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Conservative back-benchers are to try to ensure that the Government's new Family Credit, aimed at boosting the income of those in low-paid work, is paid to the mother rather than the father when social security reforms begin in 1988.

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams, Conservative MP for Kensington, has tabled an amendment to the committee stage of the Government's social security Bill this week which would ensure that the payment, which could be worth £30 a week or more in some

cases, could go to whoever received the family's child benefit, which in most cases would be the mother.

The Government is proposing that the money be paid through the pay packet, although the calculation of the entitlement would still be done by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Critics of the Government's plans argue it transfers money "from the purse to the wallet" as Family Credit is to replace Family Income Supplement, a benefit which at present is paid through a DHSS giro and

which is claimed in cases by the woman.

Opponents of the change include the National Federation of Women's Institutes, the Child Poverty Action Group and the Government's own Social Security Advisory Committee who argued that the chief purpose of the benefit is to provide help for children.

Putting it in the pay packet could mean less money for children in families where the husband does not tell the wife how much he earns and alone decides how much money the wife gets from his pay, the committee argued.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, argues that paying the money through the pay packet is a small gesture towards integrating tax and benefits. However, opponents of the scheme suspect the real motive is to use social security money apparently to boost take-home pay in low-paid jobs and thus to encourage family men to take them.

Employers, particularly the smaller ones, have opposed the scheme, and the Social Security Advisory Committee has argued that the change might lead to greater problems for claimants in obtaining help to which they are entitled.

Meanwhile, six leading disability organizations are to ask Mr Fowler to delay changes to social security which they believe will leave some of the most severely disabled people in Britain worse off.

## Cheap butter idea to be rejected

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Government is expected to reject a scheme to supply cut-price butter to Britain's 10 million old-age pensioners, even though it would cost less than half the subsidy needed to dispose of surplus stocks to the Soviet Union.

The scheme put forward by Dairy Crest, the manufacturing subsidiary of the Milk Marketing Board, with the support of the United Kingdom Provision Trade Federation, is for pensioners to be issued with tokens entitling them to a discount of 20p off the shop price of a 250 gramme pack.

Officially, the plan is still under consideration, but Ministry of Agriculture officials are understood to believe that

it would not increase consumption enough to justify the extra administrative costs.

The Ministry's attitude has incurred the wrath of many people in the trade who maintain that not only is it politically unacceptable to sell cheap butter to countries such as the Soviet Union and Libya while denying it to British citizens, but it is also more expensive.

In the latest issue of *The Grocer*, Mr John Brown, Dairy Crest's butter group director, claims that the subsidy on the proposed sales to Russian housewives will amount to more than £2,000 a tonne. The 20p a pack discount for old-age pensioners would have cost only £800

## Court action over tape tax

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

British and European tape manufacturers are preparing to fight in court governments which impose levies on blank audio and video tape, a move which they consider to be unfair, a breach of European law and a novel form of consumer tax.

After Easter the British Government is due to publish a White Paper on copyright which is expected to recommend no levy on video tape but a 10 per cent surcharge on audio tapes.

The British and European tape manufacturers fear that such a UK levy will influence the EEC in adopting it as Community policy and will be the first step towards imposing other and higher levies. The European Tape Industry Council, whose membership comprises most of the multinationals that supply

and manufacture in Europe, including the Americans and the Japanese, is uniting to fight what it believes is misguided bureaucracy.

It is currently taking legal advice on how best to challenge in court the imposition of a levy.

The council's challenge will accuse the governments of an illegal act against the Treaty of Rome which forbids the imposition of aids or levies.

The British Cabinet has been divided on the issue and ministers fear that the consumer, who will pay the levy, will consider it to be a new purchase tax. That fear has delayed for three months the publication of the White Paper and probably the dropping, for the moment, of the original proposal to impose a levy on blank video tapes.

## Message from vicar gives joy

A congregation's tears turned to smiles of joy as they listened to a recorded message from their vicar who is recovering after an attack on him at his home in west London.

"Big Brother is watching you from the vicarage," the vicar told about 400 people who packed his church. They included his daughter, who was raped during the attack, and another man who was also attacked and is recovering from a fractured skull.

In his message, the vicar, who returned to his vicarage on Friday after hospital treatment, told the congregation: "I am still weak, I have lost a stone."

He said that he would be going away for "a break" tomorrow, "to try to mend my head with vinegar and brown paper."

He also told his congregation: "I cannot begin to express what your love, gifts, care and prayers have given to me and my family."

## British scientists sought by Japan

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

British scientific talent is reportedly being wooed by the Japanese to take part in a multimillion pound world research programme which could rival any work conducted by the Americans in their Star Wars project.

But any British ambitions could be thwarted by the Government's reluctance to fund scientific research on a large scale. The Government is already embarrassed by the new European research programme, Eureka, launched only a year ago by the French and deemed to be the non-military European alternative to the Star Wars programme. It is meant to encourage European companies to collaborate in the research and development of commercial products.

The Government said that it is prepared to pay "up to 50 per cent" towards the research bill of some Eureka programmes but it has created no new funds and resources are

redirected from an annual research budget of about £360 million. Last week the Japanese were believed to be trying to persuade the authorities in Britain, other EEC members and the United States to join forces in research into advanced computers, alternative energy sources and new foodstuffs.

The heads of government of the principal industrial nations of the West are due to meet in Tokyo in May when the research would be expected to be raised. The first European electronics products, spawned from the Eureka research programme, will be launched in about two years' time, it was disclosed last week. The investment by British companies or the Government has not been disclosed but 26 projects ranging in value from £1 million to more than £70 million have been launched.

## Pledge to halt flow of heroin

President Zia of Pakistan yesterday promised to halt the flow of heroin from his country to the West.

In an interview on British television he said that his government was committed to eliminating the growth of opium poppies from which heroin is made. Farmers in Pakistan are protesting at enforced cuts in poppy production.

President Zia, interviewed in Islamabad for Channel 4's *Face the Press*, admitted that there was opposition within the Pakistan parliament to wiping out the poppy fields. "A lot of the House is in favour of the poppy growers but the Government stance is in favour of taking all actions for removing poppy growth altogether," he said.

President Zia said that he would like to convey his gratitude to the Mrs Thatcher's government, saying that there was close co-operation

## Thatcher ignores Tory racial bias, Owen says

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, last night accused the Prime Minister of giving comfort to right-wing racists within the Conservative party. He said her administration's approach to Britain's ethnic minorities was "condescending".

The Government failed to understand the problems faced by minority groups and ignored mounting evidence of severe disadvantage in employment, housing, education, and access to financial services and institutions.

"It is blind to the racially motivated and physical attacks suffered by ethnic minorities, especially Asians," he added.

In a speech on race delivered in Hounslow, west London, he spelt out proposals to improve race relations.

He said racially abusive language, whether written or spoken, should be a criminal offence and he called on the police to show they took racial attacks seriously by setting up racial harassment units.

Legislation should be amended to make it a criminal offence for anyone to publish or distribute abusive material or speak insultingly about

racial groups at public meetings. There was evidence that football grounds were being used for recruiting by extreme right-wingers, and chanting of racial abuse should also be made illegal.

Dr Owen, speaking to the SDP Asian conference, highlighted the influence of racist groups in schools and quoted a survey which showed 14 per cent of fifth formers in a West Midlands school chose the National Front or the British Movement as their first choice of political party.

"Teachers, governors, administrators and politicians must be vigorously anti-racist in their personal behaviour and in their institutional practices," he said. "We must counter this growing problem of racism amongst our children."

Nationality and immigration laws should be reformed where they had racially unequal effects.

"The SDP would restore *jus soli* - British nationality granted to everyone born within British territory - as the basis for British citizenship, and introduce a system of appeals against refusal of naturalization."

## Legal tests open on school 'voluntary duties' rules

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Important test cases open today at the High Court in London which are expected to decide whether it is a voluntary or contractual duty for teachers to cover lessons for colleagues who are off sick.

The four cases are being watched with close attention by the local authority employers and the teachers' unions, and the hearings are likely to last for up to eight days.

At present the legal situation is not clear, with the local authorities maintaining that cover for absent colleagues is an implied term of a teacher's contract, against union claims that it is a voluntary duty.

Authorities have widely differing arrangements and until the 1985 teachers' pay dispute teachers covered for two, three or sometimes for five days when one of their colleagues was off sick.

The cases are being brought by the National Union of Teachers, against four local authorities, Solihull, Rotherham, Doncaster and Croydon, two of which are Labour-controlled, and two Conservative.

The NUT is claiming that the authorities acted unlawfully last year in deducting pay from teachers who refused to cover. They did that as part of the pay dispute. For the management, teachers' refusal to cover has meant whole classes of children having to be sent home and the work of the school being seriously disrupted. If the employers lose, it could mean they are forced to employ an army of supply teachers to plug the gap at great cost to themselves and the ratepayers.

For the teachers, cover for absent colleagues means missing a free period reserved for marking or preparation of lessons. It means taking a class they do not know for an extra pay.

The local authorities, two of which are represented today by Mr Anthony Lester, QC, will be arguing that because cover is contractual the deductions were correct. The NUT will contend that teachers should not have to teach lessons for which they are not trained.

The cases are expected to go all the way to the Court of Appeal and the House of

## Wapping weapons

Continued from page 1

many specially manufactured weapons as before.

He denied allegations by print workers that the police had overreacted in controlling the demonstrators. There was one group, which appeared hell-bent on destruction and causing injuries, but he would not like to speculate on whether they were print workers.

Twenty-six people were charged early yesterday after what was described as the biggest demonstration yet in support of dismissed print workers at the plant.

Fifteen were charged with threatening behaviour, one with being on enclosed premises, four with being drunk and disorderly, three with obstructing the police, two with highway obstruction and one with being equipped to cause criminal damage. Two others arrested were released without charge.

Three police officers were taken to hospital but none was detained. A mounted policeman suffered concussion, a second officer suffered shoulder injuries and a third had his nose broken. Several police horses were injured by missiles. The ambulance service said five demonstrators were taken to hospital with minor head injuries.

The demonstration became violent when protesters tore down a 40-yard section of fencing and buried crash barriers at the police. The plant is also guarded by razor wire.

Although distribution of both *The Sunday Times* and the *News of the World* was delayed by lorries being held up inside the plant, the company said it had printed 1,366,000 and 5,712,000 copies respectively.

● The Electrical, Electronic Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, some of whose members are employed at the Wapping plant, is to submit a paper to a TUC conference on Wednesday, arguing that there is no place for mass pickets in modern industrial disputes.

Their presence is an indication that the union has failed to win full support, it says.

The paper calls for pickets to be limited to 15 at each gate. At the same time the police should be given a statutory right to stop vehicles entering or leaving so that there can be a peaceful exchange of views between drivers and pickets.

The right to picket should not be limited to an employee's own place of work.

## South 'a high-cost ghetto'

The South-east is becoming a high-cost ghetto, with house prices and a cost of living that tower above the rest of the country, and the gap is widening at an alarming rate, according to a survey published today.

The report, from Reward Regional Surveys, which is based in Stafford, says: "The message for companies is clear. Relocating employees to the South-east and particularly to London is a very expensive business."

House prices divide the country into "two nations". The national average price for a three-bedroom semi-detached house is £35,900 but in Yorkshire it is as low as £26,850.

In the South-east, however, the average is £46,375, rising to £63,425 in the Greater London area.

The report adds: "The poor beleaguered first-time buyer must wonder what he has done to deserve such an impossible position...just to get on the bottom rung of the ladder."

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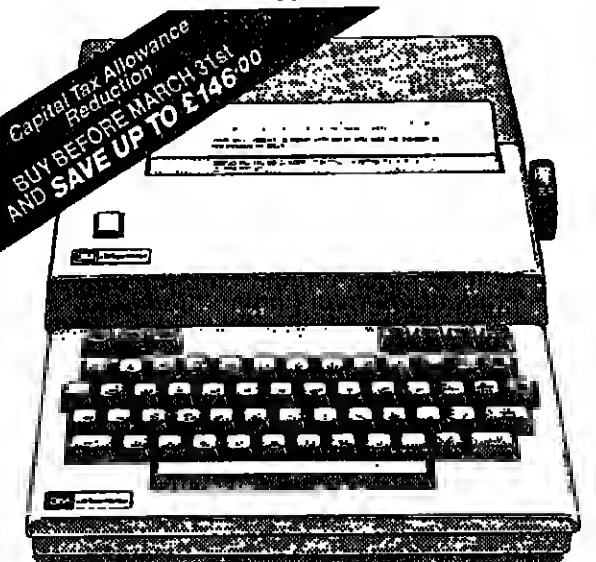
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## Stakes are high in battle of Tillingham Hall

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Tillingham Hall, a 790-acre farm near Thurrock, Essex, is the subject of a planning inquiry, starting tomorrow, which could determine the size and shape of house building in the South-east for the next decade.

Consortium Developments, a grouping of nine of Britain's largest house builders, including Barratt and Wimpey, are proposing to build a new town of some 5,000 homes for 14,000 people in the middle of the previously sacrosanct London green belt.

The group plans to build up to 15 new towns of similar size to Tillingham Hall and is hoping to announce the site of its second town, in Hampshire, in the next fortnight, to be followed by a third in the summer.

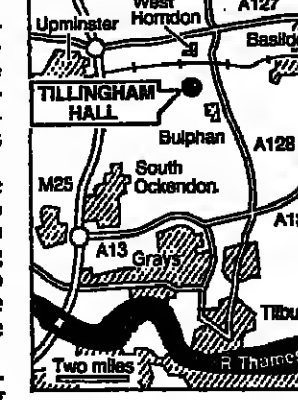
At the centre of the inquiry, expected to last seven weeks, is the level of development necessary by the end of the century to house the predicted population. Consortium Developments, supported by the House Builders Federation,

believes that on present forecasts there will be a shortage of 250,000 new homes in the region by 1991. Other estimates of demand by the Government and conservationists are lower.

The Government is in the difficult position of wanting to let the private sector get on with the job of providing homes where people want to buy them, while retaining the loyalty of its supporters in the Home Counties.

Last summer, 34 Conservative MPs in the south of England, led by Mr Jerry Wiggin, MP for Weston-super-Mare, wrote to the Prime Minister warning her that the "countryside and rural environment in our constituencies is being seriously threatened by excessive development".

Mrs Thatcher replied, pointing out that it was the Government's policy to remove unnecessary constraints on private enterprise and to encourage new house building for owner occupation. "It is not part of our policy to direct



where people shall live or where firms set up or expand," she said.

Opposition to the Tillingham Hall proposal is strong. "By choosing this site on the inner edge of London's green belt, the builders have thrown down a gauntlet to green belt policies right around London, and indeed throughout the country," the Council for the Protection of Rural England said.

The Town and Country Planning Association is also

firmly opposed to the plan, largely because of its impact on the green belt and the loss of agricultural land.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, has been consistent in his defence of the green belt, telling the increasingly bewildered house builders that they should concentrate on small "in-fill" developments and abandon large-scale estates in order to make them more palatable.

However, in January, Mr Baker surprised both conservationists and Consortium Developments by granting permission for a development on green belt land in the West Midlands.

The case of Tillingham Hall is likely to be different. Soon after the consortium's plans were announced last May, a rival development was put forward by Mr Owen Luder, a former president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, proposing that 5,000 new homes be built on reclaimed chalk pits at Grays, Essex. Both Thurrock council and

Essex County Council welcomed the proposal with such rapidity that it suggested they had found a suitable alternative to Tillingham Hall, thus enabling them to avoid the charge of preventing the construction of needed homes.

Consortium Developments has gained a strong ally with the recent appointment of Lord Northfield, the chairman of Telford Development Corporation, as its chairman.

A respected member of the environment lobby, he said: "We must face the fact that the arithmetic of housing needs, the solution to the problems of our inner cities and the need to build proper communities rather than just more big estates, means that we have got to use some agricultural land."

"I want to see it done properly. The concept of new country towns, with the emphasis on quality, sensitivity to the environment, their intimate scale and sense of balance, appeals to me as an eminently practical approach."

## Boxer still 'critical'

Steve Watt, the Scottish welterweight boxing champion, remained in a critical condition in Charing Cross hospital yesterday after collapsing during a bout at a London hotel on Friday night.

Watt, aged 27, of Hayes, Middlesex, was carried from the ring after collapsing in the 10th round of his fight with Rocky Kelly, the southern area welterweight champion.

Watt was taken to Charing Cross hospital where he was kept in a critical condition.

His manager, Mr. John McQuinn, said: "Steve is still in a critical condition but we are hopeful that he will make a full recovery."

Watt's fight with Kelly was scheduled for the 10th round but was stopped after the 10th round.

Watt was taken to Charing Cross hospital where he was kept in a critical condition.



## Shops Bill may mean end of family Sunday for thousands

By Patricia Clough

Almost 250,000 children would lose a parent to Sunday trading if only half the shops in Britain opened under the terms of the Shops Bill, according to a report published today.

Longer weekday trading hours, also predicted in the Bill, could swell the number of "latch-key" children who were unsupervised for long periods, the independent Family Policy Studies Centre said.

It estimated that if half of all shops were to open on Sundays, 350,000 shop workers would be needed. They would include 94,300 mothers with a total of 169,740 children under 16, and 34,776 fathers with 62,597 children below that age.

As a result 232,337 children would not have both parents around for all or part of Sunday. "The family Sunday might never be the same again for one child in 15," Mr. Malcolm Wicks, the centre's director, said.

Nevertheless, some family trends indicated that changes in shopping hours were desirable, especially since in many

## 200,000 children in dentists' pay study

By Nicholas Timmins  
Social Services Correspondent

Almost 200,000 children aged under 16 are to take part in a national study that could lead to a new system of paying dentists. It would encourage them to preserve teeth and prevent decay rather than be paid for filling or restoring rotten teeth.

The Department of Health has agreed to go ahead with a study, due to start in July, involving 1,000 dentists in eight parts of Britain. Half will be paid a flat rate for looking after the children's teeth, rather than the item-of-service fees for each examination, filling, crown or other treatment which the other 500 dentists will receive.

The experiment follows a successful trial with 50 dentists, and criticism that the present system of paying dentists encourages over-treatment, fails to reward efforts to prevent disease, and is open to abuse.

Advocates of capitation fees for dentists believe that the system could, in the long run, be adopted for adults as well as children, but proof that it works is needed first.

The study will cost £360,000 and run until 1988. The effect of the two payment systems on the health of the children's teeth will be compared, together with the effect on dentists' income, and on whether they over-treat or do too little.

Critics of the present arrangements argue that because dentists are paid a small fee only for examination and advice, and higher fees for treating the results of decay, there is little or no incentive, other than good professional behaviour, to spend time teaching good dental hygiene and trying to prevent decay.

Critics of proposed capitation fees say that they could lead to "supervised neglect" by encouraging dentists to carry out the absolute minimum of treatment necessary to eliminate pain and discomfort, while still receiving the annual fee for less work than was really necessary.

## Gene clue in baby disease tests

By Thomson Prentice  
Science Correspondent

Scientists are close to finding the gene responsible for cystic fibrosis, the incurable disease with which at least one baby is born every day in Britain.

The discovery could lead to the development of tests to identify the two million or more carriers of the abnormal gene, a report published today by the Office of Health Economics says.

Routine tests to diagnose the disease in an unborn child could also follow, allowing parents to opt for termination of pregnancy, the report says.

About one person in 20 carries the cystic fibrosis gene, and when it is present in both parents, there is a one in four chance that each offspring will inherit the disease.

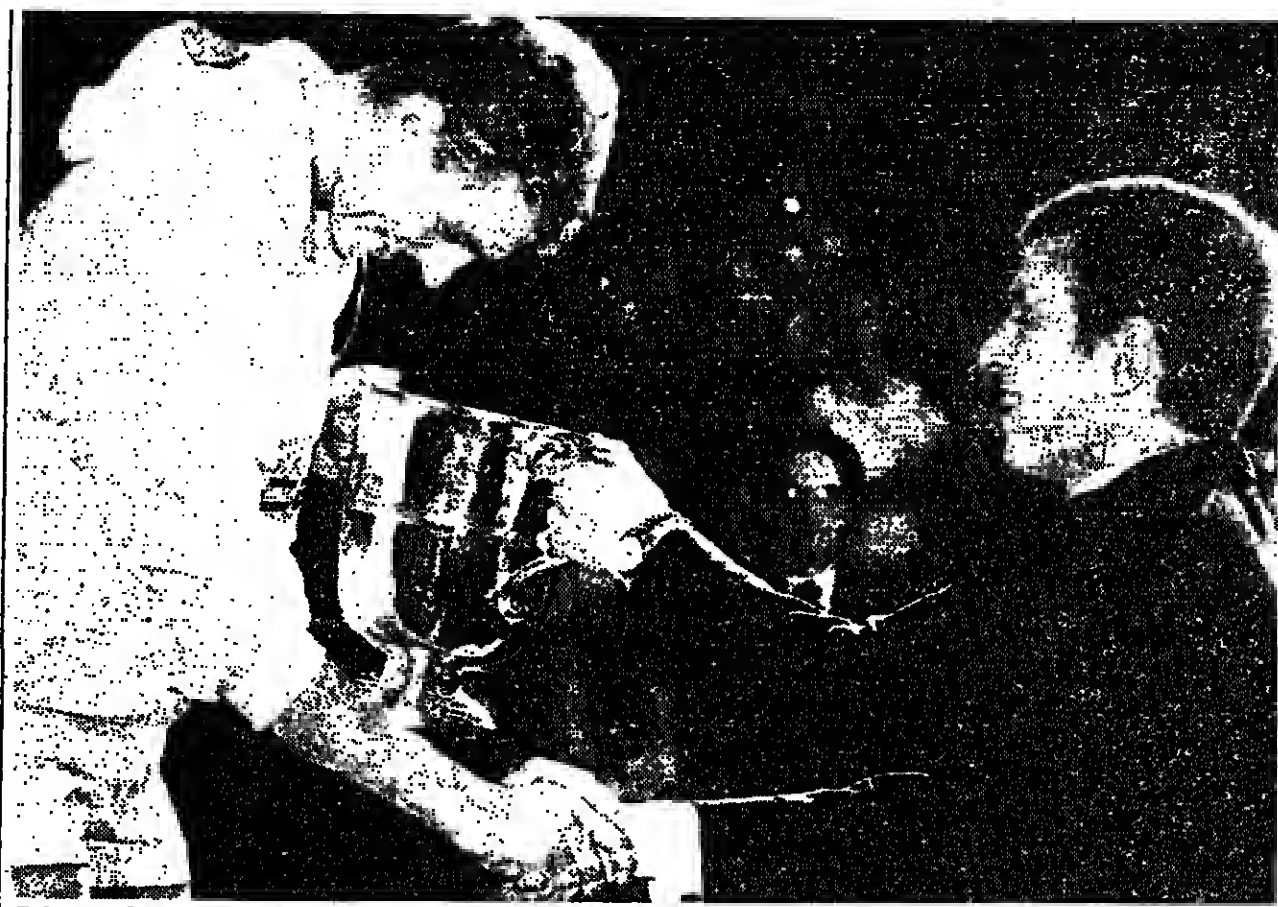
Children with the gene suffer from recurrent lung infections and from thick mucus in the lungs and other organs. Fewer than 25 per cent survive into their 30s. The precise biochemical fault that causes the condition is still unknown, and there is no known cure.

However, researchers at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, and others in Denmark, Canada and the United States, have found located the defective gene in human chromosomes. Blood samples were taken from more than 200 children with the disease to follow the inheritance of the condition.

"This discovery has raised new hopes and represents a significant breakthrough," the report says. "It is hoped one consequence will be the development of new tests to identify the two million or so carriers of the gene."

The report says less than half of cystic fibrosis patients in Britain are being treated at a total of 16 specialist centres despite evidence that such centres can be responsible for substantial improvements in both quality and length of life, when compared with the outcome achieved in non-specialist settings.

● Cystic Fibrosis (Office of Health Economics, 12 Whitehall, London SW1A 2DY; £1)



Prince Andrew presenting a trophy to Merten Frost, from Denmark, winner of the men's singles final at the All-England open badminton championships at Wembley yesterday (Photograph: John Voos). Tournament report: page 32

## Prince plays it single at badminton

A small crowd had gathered in the balmy midday sunshine yesterday by a back entrance of the Wembley sports complex, venue of the British badminton championship (Alan Hamilton writes).

Word spread from the photographers on who was expected. The question was whether they were going to photograph one subject or two.

At 11.50 a silvery-green Jaguar swept up to the door. There was a murmur of disappointment from the cameramen who could see through the windscreen that there was no

woman inside.

The driver got out and wiped an imaginary crease from his dark blue suit. "Oh," said a woman behind the barrier as though she had been expecting someone entirely different. "It's Prince Andrew."

The Prince quickly shook hands with his badminton hosts, and disappeared through the door before members of the media ratpack could bowl him any question concerning Miss Sarah Ferguson.

Speculation on the relationship between the Prince and Miss

Ferguson, fuelled by the Queen's return from Australia on Friday, became ever more fevered during the weekend, with some commentators claiming with apparent cast-iron assurance that an announcement would be made today.

Miss Ferguson, however, who has become adept at handling the media in full battle cry, succeeded in keeping a low profile.

She was last seen being driven at high speed by her father in a red BMW car from their home at Dummer, Hampshire, to an unknown destination.

## Togetherness ends class-ridden works canteen

By Edward Townsend

The image of Britain's class-ridden works canteen serving stodgy food to the workers while the bosses eat in boardroom splendour, has finally been laid to rest, according to the Industrial Society.

Its latest survey of works catering, published today,

shows that most companies now have one restaurant where the directors, office staff and shop floor workers regularly eat together.

The division now is between the eating habits of the office and the shop floor, with secretaries and clerks preferring to buy meals, while the reverse is the case in the

factory, the society says.

The survey covers 480 catering operations and 680 dining rooms in factories and offices throughout Britain, and indicates that 58 out of every 100 workers eat in-house.

In the Midlands and the South, snacks appear to be growing in popularity, while

in the North and Scotland most people still prefer a cooked midday meal. In London, workers drink twice as many cups of vending tea and coffee as elsewhere in Britain.

Catering prices, costs and subsidies and other information, The Industrial Society (Peter Runge House, 3-4 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1 5DC, £12.50).

## Hypnotics 'safe for shop sale'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Benzodiazepine sleeping tablets, now available only on prescription, should be available over the counter to help the nation to get a good night's sleep, a specialist in the study of sleep has suggested.

"Many people keep a few sleeping pills at home for the odd occasion when experience suggests that the day's events will cause a troubled night," Professor Ian Oswald, professor of psychiatry at Edinburgh University, says in a leading article in the *British Medical Journal*.

"Today's hypnotics are safe and are as much modern facilities as telephones or video." When any adult is free to buy a bottle of vodka, Professor Oswald says, "I do not see why short-acting benzodiazepine hypnotics should not be similarly available in Britain." Doctors need not always be the intermediaries.

## Chloride leak pool closed

Thirty-eight children and 13 parents were allowed home yesterday from hospital where they had been detained overnight after inhaling chloride fumes during a party at the swimming pool in Tenby, west Wales.

Council officials have begun an investigation and the pool has been closed while experts examine the equipment.

## Tea still top British drink

Tea is still Britain's favourite drink and consumption last year of more than 180,000 tonnes exceeded that of North America and Western Europe combined.

A report published today says that the average person drinks about four cups of tea a day, and tea accounts for 45 per cent of everything drunk in Britain.

## Guards in fire

More than 25 soldiers were evacuated when fire broke out early yesterday in an accommodation block at Combermere Barracks, Windsor, Berkshire, the home of the Life Guards.

## Father of MP dies in Ukraine

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The father of a British MP has died aged 83 in the Ukraine just before his son's first visit home in more than 40 years.

Mr Stefan Terlezki, Conservative MP for Cardiff West, was told yesterday, 24 hours before he and his family were due to leave. He will continue with the trip and hopes to attend the funeral.

"While it hurts me terribly that I was unable, by so brief a time, to be at his bedside when he died, I am glad that his physical and mental pain is now at an end."

## Rail cuts leave users standing

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

British Rail passengers are suffering serious overcrowding as the railways cut back on rolling stock to meet government financial targets.

On the east coast main line, where some of the busiest trains run from York and Edinburgh to King's Cross, London, first-class passengers are forced regularly to stand from as far as Peterborough, nearly 80 miles out.

In the southern region, the Brighton, Portsmouth and Chatham lines are reported to be among the worst, while Peterborough, Southend, and Cambridge in the east, and Oxford and Didcot in the west, are also notoriously bad.

On these and other routes in Wales, Scotland and the north of England, overcrowding occurs particularly at peak periods such as school holidays, weekends and for exhibitions or sporting events.

The latest surge in overcrowding has been caused partly by the success of British Rail marketing initiatives, including several cut-price ticket offers, and a big reduction in rolling stock to meet government financial targets.

London commuter services are to lose 500 coaches in the next five years, but the biggest squeeze will be felt on inter-city routes where British Rail is trying to cut heavy maintenance costs by rationalizing services and reducing the fleet. Between 1981 and 1984, the

inter-city coach fleet was cut by 40 per cent from 4,000 to 2,500 and British Rail has now embarked on a programme to transform its current £230 million operating loss to a £36 million profit by 1989.

Mr Christopher Groom, an economist who commutes by inter-city train from Kettering, Northamptonshire, to London, is spokesman for the Kettering Rail Users Association. "British Rail tell us that to achieve financial targets they have to cut rolling stock costs. Meanwhile, they have to bring supply and demand into balance, which presumably means raising fares to price people off trains," he said.

"We are very hurt and angry. Many people have entered into commitments as to jobs, homes, and children's education. They say that by 1987-88 they plan to reduce train sets from 12 to 10 which will cause very bad overcrowding."

British Rail admits it will have to fight hard to meet a 25 per cent cut in government support for passenger services by next year. But it claims that overcrowding is under control with only three in every 1,000 passengers, or 6,000 a day, forced to stand.

A new scheme to allow families to reserve up to four second-class seats for £1 is also being planned in an effort to beat the problem.

## Where to eat out for a fiver

By Robin Young

Young parents are the most petalized consumers as far as eating out is concerned, according to the first issue of the *Budget Good Food Guide*, published today.

Standards in some family restaurants were abysmal, the editors say, and in many parts of the country they could find nowhere to recommend to those with children who might want a regular break from cooking for the family.

The guide does list 1,500 places where customers can eat for about £5 a head and have food that the editors think better than "all right".

They include some surprisingly smart addresses. The Dorchester Hotel in London is included for its cocktail bar snacks such as warm oysters wrapped in bacon. "A flash spot to meet before a night out," the guide observes.

The Britannia Inter-Continental Hotel in Grosvenor Square is included for the transatlantic sandwiches and snacks in its Best of Both Worlds cafe.

Similarly the Sharrow Bay Hotel on Ullswater, where dinner costs £38 a head, gets in on the strength of its

"exemplary" £5 afternoon tea. Fortnum & Mason is there for the Fountain Restaurant's meals through the day from breakfast to after-theatre suppers.

On a cheaper plane, black pudding and mushy peas at Pie Tom's stall in Rawson Market, Bradford, costs less than 50p, while the Inebriated Newt in Clapham, south-west London, is recommended as "a genuine cut-price restaurant serving everything from gigantic 1lb hamburgers to deep-fried seaweed". Large parties can order a whole lamb to be roasted in the dining room.

At the Milecastle Inn at Halkwhistle, Northumberland, near Hadrian's Wall, the owner makes his own game and venison sausages to sell as bar meals at £4 or less.

The National Gallery restaurant in London is recommended though it is admitted the dishes are not the equivalent of the pictorial masterpieces in the building, and the Victoria & Albert Museum's self-service restaurant is said to give "new hope to the idea of museum and gallery food", serving very rare beef, Egyptian

lemon chicken and fine prune tart.

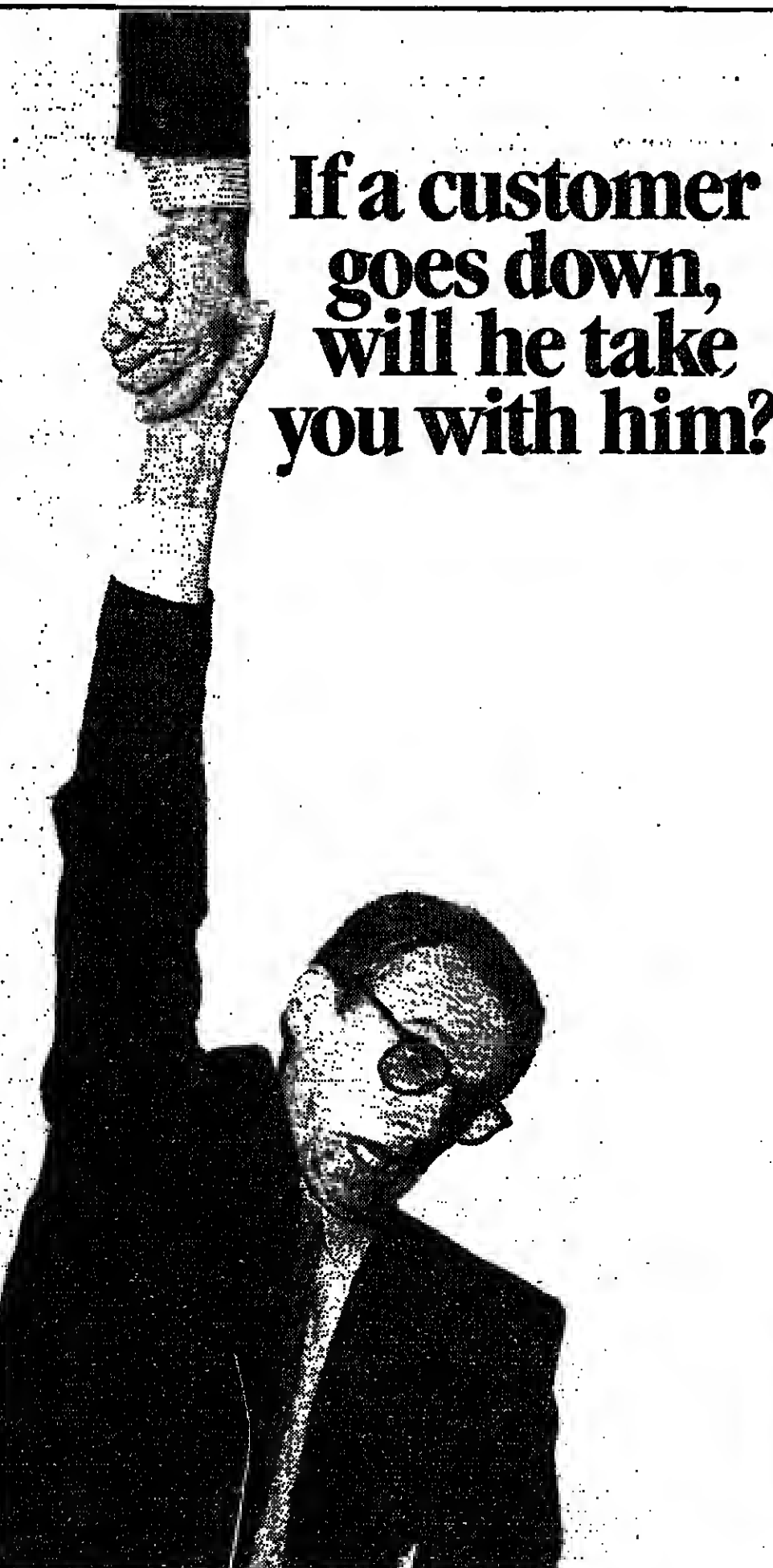
In Edinburgh the Gallery of Modern Art is commended for nut rissoles with chick peas.

The Theatre Royal at Barry St Edmunds is one theatre bar commended for meals.

Other curiosities among the predictable public houses, fish and chip shops, south Indian vegetarian and Chinese dim-sum restaurants include the cockle sheds on the front at Leigh-on-Sea in Essex ("check the times of the tides") and the Flora Tea Rooms on the beach at Dunwich, Suffolk, where fish goes straight from the boats into batter and the fryer.

Only one large fast-food restaurant chain, Pizza Express, is considered good enough for a full entry, but among burger bars McDonald's is voted best of the chains for takeaways, and Wendy the best for the family to go in together.

The Little Chef and Happy Eater roadside cafe chains finished in a dead-heat as useful family pit-stops. *Budget Good Food Guide* (Consumer Association, Hodder & Stoughton; £4.95)



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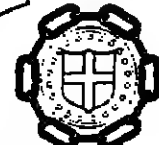
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## Suspended jail terms for young offenders would be 'bad mistake'

By Patricia Clough

The introduction of suspended jail sentences for young offenders would be a "serious mistake", with more, not fewer, young people ending up in prison.

The warning is given today by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro) in a paper sent to the Home Office to help with its review of the issue.

Courts have had the power to suspend jail sentences in full since 1968, and to suspend them partially since 1982. But that has been denied to offenders aged under 21 since 1983, when imprisonment for that age group was abolished and replaced by the youth custody scheme.

In its paper, the association says: "Eighteen years' experi-

ence of the suspended prison sentence illustrates all too clearly the likely results of introducing suspended sentences for young people."

Courts had misused the power by imposing suspended sentences on offenders they would not normally have sent to prison. One third of such sentences were later activated with the result that offenders who would not otherwise have been imprisoned ended in jail.

Moreover, magistrates had consistently imposed longer sentences when suspending them than when sending offenders directly to jail. As a result those that were eventually enforced were longer.

In 1984, the association says, only 16 per cent of suspended prison sentences were less than one month,

compared with 32 per cent of non-suspended sentences.

Since suspended sentences were abolished for young adults, they had been replaced mainly by non-custodial penalties, demonstrating that suspended sentences were not being used for their original purpose, which was keeping young people out of prison.

The association concludes: "The overwhelming weight of evidence suggests that the introduction of suspended or partly suspended sentences for young offenders would lead to an increase in the number of young people entering penal establishments."

"We hope, therefore, that the Home Office will decide against including provisions to this effect in the forthcoming Criminal Justice Bill."

## Sports study A level introduced

A new course leading to the first GCE A-level examination in sports studies will be available at 25 schools and colleges throughout Britain from September.

Candidates, who are being limited to 300 initially, will not, however, need to be good at playing sport.

Mr John Day, secretary general of the Associated Ex-

aminations Board, said there would be no practical test. The courses would be academic, concentrating on the technical analysis of sport and the demands made on the performer by different sports.

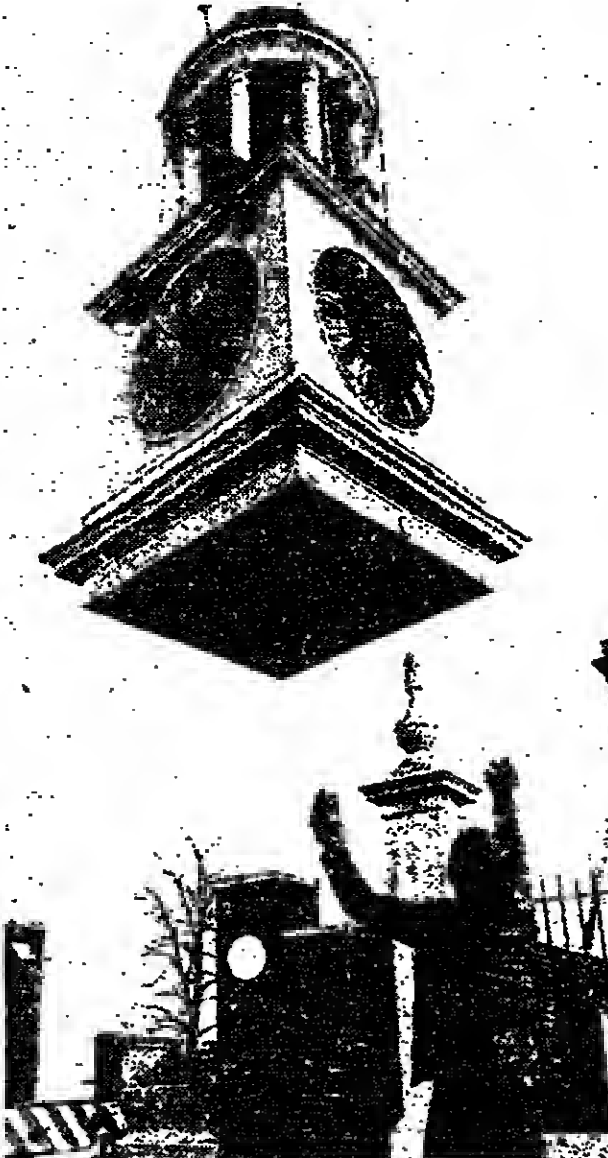
The scientific knowledge related to performance would also be considered.

"The scientific and sociological effects of an emerging

sports-cum-leisure industry pose new demands of knowledge and management skills," Mr Day said.

"This A level will go some way towards preparing young people for these new challenges, either as direct entrants to the industry or higher education."

The first examination will be in 1988.



The docket clock which was a landmark at the Royal Dockyard, Deptford, south London, for 200 years, leaving storage at Blackheath yesterday to be installed down river at Thamesmead (Photograph: Peter Trivelpy).

## New move to change law on child care

By Frances Gibb  
Legal Affairs  
Correspondent

A Conservative MP will make a second attempt this week to change the law to provide legal safeguards against child abuse, in spite of government opposition to his measure.

Mr Dennis Walters, Conservative MP for Westbury, has modified substantially his Private Member's Bill under which the approval of magistrates would be needed before a child in local authority care could be returned to its parents.

The Bill has already had a second reading but the Government has made clear that it will block the measure as it stands. The Bill will reach the committee stage on Wednesday.

The changes are, first, that the restriction he proposes on returning children to the parental home will now apply only in cases of ill-treatment and neglect.

Second, within that category, the court's approval will be required only where the magistrates who make the original order direct that the child must be brought back before it is returned to its parents.

Mr Walters said his aim is to ensure that the decision is not left entirely to the discretion of social workers.

## Mood of Ulster unionists: 1 Anglo-Irish deal has exposed loyalist conflicts

As unionist leaders hint at the prospect of more talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Richard Ford reports on how the Anglo-Irish agreement has exposed the conflict of loyalties at the heart of unionism, aided a resurgence of loyalist Nationalism and encouraged dreams of independence.

On a wall in "loyalist" east Belfast a graffiti artist has scrawled the words "Thatcher is a traitor". Outside the Victorian city hall, as the deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party suggested the electric chair treatment for the Prime Minister, a raucous elderly woman was giving her own recipe.

"If I could get my hands on that bloody Mrs Thatcher, I know what I'd do. With my own hands I'd pull out her eyes." She turned to the assembled media urging them to report the truth about "wee Ulster" and the feelings of loyalists.

Before the speeches were finished on the 24-hour day of action, hundreds of people went on a rampage through city streets smashing windows and burning cars. One loyalist later raised a hand in the air, saying of the day when there was "violence, intimidation and much of industry at a standstill: "It was great. We showed them."

But another woman highlighted the division that emerged in unionist ranks. She said: "Ulster says no. Ulster says no to being made to look fools by these people. That was just thuggery and I want no more of it."

Four months after the signing of the Anglo-Irish agreement, loyalist opposition remains implacable. The Government has lost the propaganda battle: there is no middle ground. The feeling of distrust and betrayal by Britain runs across the unionist community. From the middle-class suburbs to working-class strongholds, the antipathy to giving Dublin a role in the North's affairs is enormous.

The sense of shock that has engulfed unionism has been made worse by the belief that Mrs Thatcher was their one true friend in the Cabinet. Unionism has always had a schizophrenic attitude towards Britain, uncertain of where its ultimate loyalty lay: to the Crown and Westminster, or their faith and state?

Many argue that they are loyal to the Crown, saying that the Queen would never have signed an Act of Parliament containing the agreement.

One loyalist said: "It's all very well talking about being prepared to cut grass but you can let the workers would be eating it before the politicians. They're not going to kid us this time."

And with Ulster heavily dependent on the British exchequer for maintenance of its standard of living, many loyalist leaders suspect unionists would refuse to go down the independence road.

The deal with Dublin has confirmed their wary suspicions. It has fuelled Ulster nationalism and the belief to Ulster, their heritage and everything they have worked to achieve.

As provincial outsiders they are suspicious of supposedly sophisticated metropolitan ways and are indignant that after 17 years of "the troubles" a Thatcher government should, as they believe, start to deliver them to their old southern enemy.

Many of those involved in the day of action believe that the intimidation and violence got them noticed at Westminster and are willing for a longer performance. They see the agreement as evidence that violence pays and that it is the only thing to which the Government will listen.

Increasing militant action against the Government, allied to the feeling that Britain can never be trusted, has inevitably led to talks on some form of independence. Many people suspect that the young recruits to Mr Ian Paisley's DUP are inclined to this end after all-out confrontations with the Government and the humiliation of Mrs Thatcher.

But despite a growing loyalist nationalism there remain doubts by many, particularly in the industrial sector which would be in the forefront of a battle to bring about the agreement's collapse.

Sources close to the 1986 Workers' Committee are unsure about most people's reaction to any talks of breaking the link with Britain. They are not sure if there would be wholehearted support for a complete industrial stoppage and are anxious not to be used by ambitious politicians.

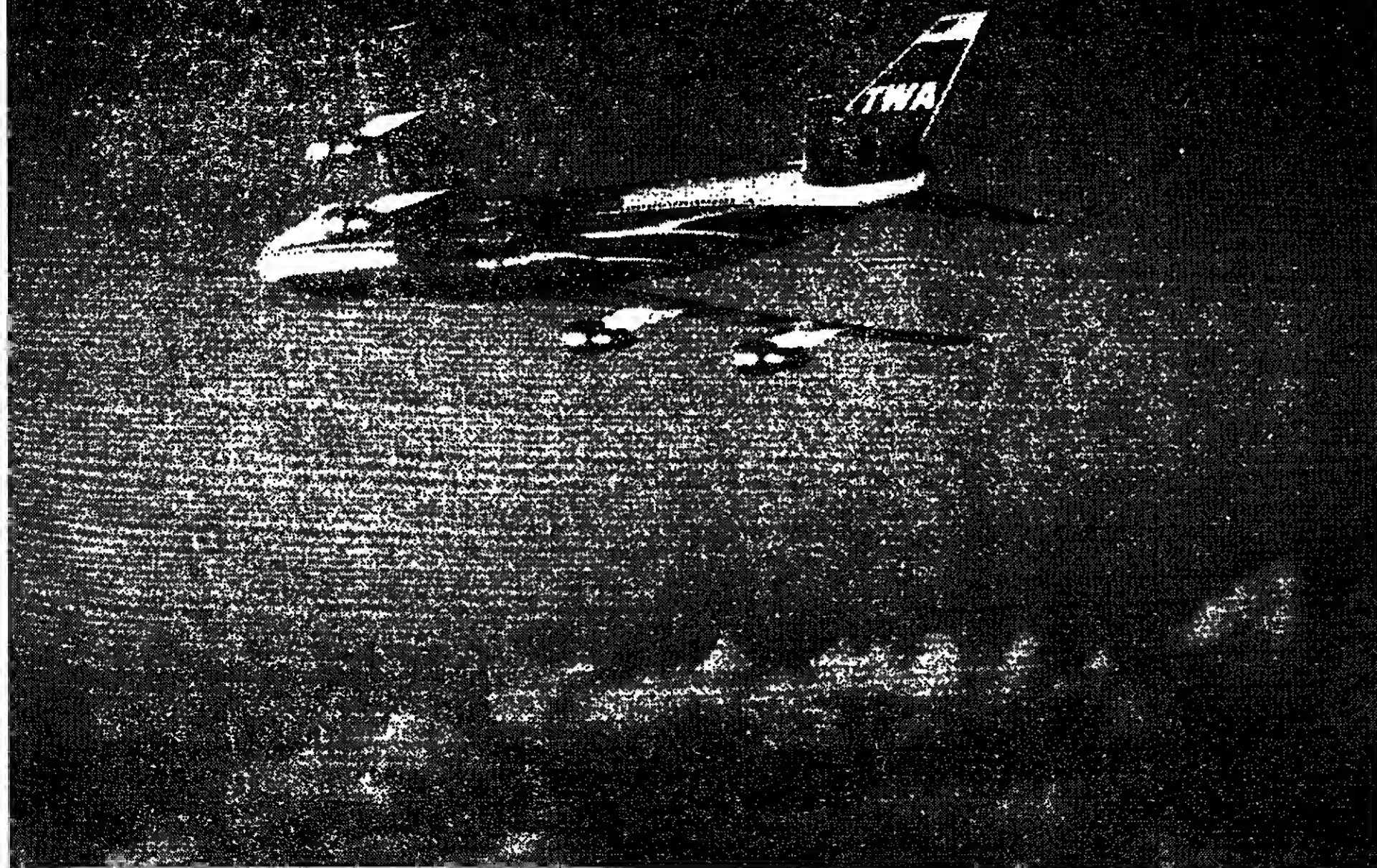
One loyalist said: "It's all very well talking about being prepared to cut grass but you can let the workers would be eating it before the politicians. They're not going to kid us this time."

And with Ulster heavily dependent on the British exchequer for maintenance of its standard of living, many loyalist leaders suspect unionists would refuse to go down the independence road.

Tomorrow: Signals of compromise.

TWA to and through the USA

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Leading the way to the USA



## Protest at delay over radio plan

By David Hewson  
Arts Correspondent

Community radio groups have written to the Home Secretary to protest about the delay in setting up a network of stations across Britain.

A Home Office-appointed committee started vetting applications for the experimental licences before Christmas and had hoped to announce the awards last month. But the Home Office has said that it is still unable to indicate when the new franchises will be made public.

The Community Radio Association complained that there was deep anxiety about the delay in announcing the experimental licences and called for the choices to be made public as soon as possible. It wants some of the stations to be given to ethnic groups who would run them specifically for their communities.

The association said that it acknowledged the particular discrimination suffered by Britain's black communities when compared with other socially disadvantaged groups.

It supported their demands "to be served by individual stations as a particularly appropriate way in which community radio could hope to meet their expressed and recognized needs and diversity."

## TUC alert on office hazards

The office is not the cosy haven it is often thought to be, the TUC says in a report published today.

It urges workers to press for measures to reduce more than 5,000 serious injuries reported in offices every year.

**Health and Safety in the Office** also points out that new technology has brought a whole new range of hazards into the office.

"The office environment may be made more comfortable for the machines but for the workforce it usually means more fumes, more eye strain, more shiftwork and much more pressure," the report says.

The TUC advises workers and union representatives to check for potential hazards, including poorly-planned and inadequate floor space, faulty electrical wiring and equipment, badly guarded machinery, fumes, inadequate fire precautions and poor temperature control and ventilation.

It also urges them to check if anyone is suffering from work-related injuries such as eye strain or skin rashes, to get employers to consult before making changes in the office environment, to make health and safety a regular item at their meetings and to attend TUC or union-approved courses.

## Union demands action as bus assaults rise

Violence on London's buses is on the increase and the Government has failed to take effective action to stop it, according to a report published today.

The report, by the Transport and General Workers' Union, shows that last year there were 1,200 assaults on London bus workers, up by 150 on the previous year.

One in every 15 bus workers was assaulted, compared with one in 19 the preceding year. The incidence of violence towards drivers of only buses almost doubled to 300 last year. The number of attacks on conductors was also up by 9 per cent to 665.

Assaults connected with the use of Travelcards and passes had also risen sharply, as had

the number of assaults connected with mugging and hoodlums.

The union criticizes the Government's failure to act against violence on the buses.

The report, by Mr Harry Mead, of the union's London bus committee, says that in 1984 the Home Secretary promised an urgent review of assaults on public transport workers. But there had been no report and no action.

Cut in jobs and services are seen as a contributory factor. Mr Terry Allan, the union's London district secretary, said: "We are determined to protect our members against assaults and we are pressing hard for protective screens and other safety measures to be brought in."



## Visiting congressmen claim aid for Contras should bring reforms

From John Carlin, Managua

A few days before the controversial Congress vote on American funds for the Nicaraguan Contras, a congressional delegation visiting Managua has concluded that support for President Reagan's proposed military aid for the rebels is necessary "to bring about internal change" in Nicaragua.

It would also help "to pressure" the leftist Sandinista Government to negotiate with the Contras.

Nine Republican congressmen, as well as delegates from the State Department, Defense Department and the White House, left Managua over the weekend after a 20-hour visit which, they said, "strengthened the viewpoint that Nicaragua is a 'communist', 'tyrannical' state."

Referring to President Reagan's statement on Friday, Congressman David Drier of California said: "If he called them skunks, if he refers to himself as a Contra, then absolutely this is the kind of pressure that needs to be applied. I support him on that 100 per cent."

In interviews, the congressmen appeared to contradict the reports of Western diplomats and international human rights groups who say atroc-

ities are committed in roughly equal proportions by both sides in the Nicaraguan civil war. "In fact, the violations of the Contras pale next to those of the Sandinista Government," one said.

The delegation met members of the political opposition, the Roman Catholic Church and local human rights workers.

They also saw the Nicaraguan Vice-President, Señor Sergio Ramírez, who told

President Ortega of Nicaragua has accused President Reagan of having "lost his senses" in claiming that he himself felt like a Contra. "It is dangerous if the head of a superpower has lost his reason," President Ortega told a press conference in Stockholm.

them flatly that the only thing his Government would negotiate with the Contras would be the terms of their surrender.

The Sandinistas themselves are convinced Washington is interested not in negotiations but in their destruction.

Asked how the US was able to justify keeping up diplomatic relations with Nicaragua in the light of President Reagan's virtual declarations

of war, one congressman said that it was "very reasonable for us to do so", as it might help "bring about a form of democratic pluralism in this country".

When asked to explain this apparent anomaly last year, a senior American official in Washington said an embassy offered the US an excellent "intelligence platform" inside Nicaragua. The truth of that was demonstrated last week with the Sandinistas' exposure — to the embarrassment of the US Embassy — of four alleged CIA agents working as diplomats.

TEGUCIGALPA: The Costa Rican President-elect, Señor Oscar Arias Sánchez, said yesterday the Nicaraguan Government would be demonstrating "intransigence" if it did not agree to a dialogue with the Contras, as recommended in a new regional peace plan (Reuters reports).

Speaking at a news conference after a three-hour meeting with President Arias, who said that Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador had agreed to support a new peace plan drawn up by President José Napoleón Duarte of El Salvador.

Liberty debate, page 12  
Leading article, page 13

## Envoy has hope for Beirut hostages

From Diana Geddes Paris

Dr Razah Raad, the French doctor of Lebanese Shia origin who has been acting as a mediator in negotiations between the French Government and the Islamic Jihad organization for the release of French hostages held in Beirut, returned to Paris at the weekend, saying he hoped an early solution to the affair would now be possible.

In conversations with the kidnappers he had noted a "favourable development" in their attitude. For the first time, the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad had been prepared to make concessions on all their demands. He felt they wanted to bring the affair to a close.

They had appeared ready to accept the French proposals, provided they were backed by Syrian and Iranian guarantees, he said. He declined to give details of the proposals, except to say that they were centred on the release of five men jailed in France in connection with the attempted murder of Mr Shahpour Bakhtiar, the former Iranian Prime Minister, in 1980.

He also said the kidnappers had expressed a desire for an "opening up of French policy towards Iran", and France's adoption of a neutral policy towards the Gulf war.

Dr Raad was unable to



Dr Razah Raad, Lebanese-born French mediator, speaking to reporters on his return from the Middle East.

clarify the situation regarding one of the original four French hostages, M Michel Seurat, whose "execution" was announced by Islamic Jihad on March 5, but proof of whose death has not been obtained.

He was also unable to provide any news of the four French television men kidnapped in Beirut a week ago.

On Friday a hitherto unknown group, calling itself the "Organization of Revolutionary Justice", claimed responsibility for kidnapping the TV crew and provided photocopies of the press cards and driving licences of two journalists.

On his return to Paris on Saturday, Dr Raad gave a full account of his talks to the French Foreign Ministry.

Kidnap casualty, page 12

## Fears of violence grow in Sabah

From M.G.G. Pillai Kuala Lumpur

The Malaysian Government sent additional police units over the weekend to Sabah state, East Malaysia, where a political crisis threatens to spill over into a confrontation between Muslim and Christian groups.

Yesterday morning the state capital of Kota Kinabalu was ringed by police road blocks and the situation was tense with residents expecting more demonstrations from the main opposition political party.

The opposition United Sabah National Organization sees the confrontation as a "last ditch" fight for Islam. It organized two demonstrations last week.

The authorities in Kuala Lumpur are worried by the latest bout of tension in Sabah which could fan anti-federal feelings.

In the past two weeks more than 15 bombs exploded in the state, injuring more than 20 and killing at least two people.

Kuala Lumpur has declined all comment. The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, is due to visit Sabah next month. But there is a growing view in both Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu that a state of emergency may be likely in Sabah.

## US coma ruling lets doctor end treatment

New Orleans (Reuters) — Doctors in the United States have been given the go-ahead by their ruling body to withhold treatment from comatose patients, provided they have the agreement of the patient's family and meet any wishes he expressed before losing consciousness.

The ruling was made at the weekend at a conference of the American Medical Association's Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs. It says it is now "ethical" to withhold food, water and medicine.

It includes such "heroic" procedures as putting a comatose patient on a respirator when he experiences breathing difficulties, and covers those who are not in immediate danger of dying.

If a patient's condition "is beyond doubt irreversible, it is not unethical to discontinue all life-prolonging means of medical treatments", it says.

Doctors can use the ruling as a defence if taken to court in cases where treatment has been withdrawn.

The council chairman, Dr Nancy Dickey, said the decision was expected to cause controversy: "We felt sure it would not be embraced with open arms by all people, but there is absolutely nothing in this dictating that a physician should act against his moral and ethical beliefs."

## Troops put on alert after Panama riots

Panama City (Reuters) — Soldiers armed with M16 rifles reinforced scores of riot police outside the National Assembly here yesterday after anti-government protests left at least one person dead and an unknown number of people injured.

The disturbances began on Saturday night and continued until dawn as the sixth day of a crippling nationwide strike began. The strike was called in protest at proposed reforms of the labour laws.

The reforms were proposed by President del Valle last week as part of an austerity package to help the country to qualify for badly needed new credits and debt-financing facilities from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

They would slash payment for overtime and other worker benefits and are expected to be approved by the assembly in an emergency session.

The violence was apparently sparked by the reform plan. Police responded to rock-throwing protesters with tear gas and birdshot.

The opposition newspaper La Prensa reported that a demonstrator, aged 22, was

shot at point-blank range by a policeman during the rioting, but a spokesman for the security forces denied responsibility for his death.

He said about 30 demonstrators were arrested during the disturbances, which were provoked by a mob of vandals who were assaulting businesses near the assembly.

Tension had mounted during the afternoon when about 20,000 demonstrators, led by militant leaders of the 70,000-member National Council of Organized Workers, marched on the assembly to protest against the reforms.

The slogan-chanting demonstrators angrily confronted about 250 riot police blocking access to the assembly but left peacefully after about two hours.

Riot police, armed with stun-guns, clubs and rubber truncheons, were reinforced yesterday by about 60 soldiers.

Asked if the troop presence meant the military was prepared to crush further protests, a lieutenant in charge of security outside the assembly said "it can be interpreted that way".

## Carlsson named for peace post

From Christopher Mosey Stockholm

Mr Ingvar Carlsson, the Swedish Prime Minister, was yesterday asked to take over the chairmanship of the Independent Disarmament Commission left vacant after the assassination of his predecessor, Mr Olof Palme.

By last night nearly all the world leaders and statesmen who attended the funeral on Saturday had left Stockholm. Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, described Saturday's funeral service as moving. "It was a privilege to be there," he said.

The service was attended by 1,700 mourners, including 16 heads of state led by M. François Mitterrand, the President of France, 17 Prime Ministers and 19 Foreign Ministers. Britain was represented by Lord Whitelaw, Lord President of the Council.

The funeral service, held in Stockholm's magnificent town hall by the mist-shrouded waters of Lake Maharen, and the procession that followed through the city's streets to the churchyard of Gustaf Adolf, passed without incident.

Mr Victor Gunnarsson, aged 33, arrested on suspicion of having been involved in the assassination of Mr Palme, must be either charged or released from custody by this afternoon.

## Summit follow-up flagging

Stockholm — Soviet and American officials attending the funeral of Mr Olof Palme, have expressed dissatisfaction with developments since last year's superpower summit between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev (Christopher Mosey writes).

After two hours of "candid" talks with Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet Prime Minister, Mr George Shultz, the United States Secretary of State, said "We were in agreement that the meetings between Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachev continued to give a good basis for continued discussions".

The talks, held at the Soviet Embassy in Stockholm, went on for an hour longer than scheduled and were the first top-level discussions since the summit.

No negotiations as such had taken place, Mr Shultz said, and no decisions were taken on a possible follow-up summit.

"We have had a very candid exchange of ideas across a broad spectrum of issues," he said.

The discussions had centred on the possibility of a new ban on nuclear testing. Mr Shultz gave the Soviet Premier the text of President Reagan's latest offer to allow the Soviet Union to study the US system for monitoring an eventual test ban.

## Rembrandt ruled out

Berlin (AP) — Art historians have officially declared the painting "Man With The Golden Helmet" the work of an unknown artist, after it was for centuries regarded as one of Rembrandt's masterpieces.

The information was made public at a special exhibition of the restored painting in a West Berlin museum, its first showing since doubts about its origin were made public last year.

A statement from the Museum of Prussian Culture said: "It is now clear that the picture was not painted by Rembrandt, but by an unknown artist belonging to the

Dutch masters' company." Restoration on the painting started last spring after a Dutch Curators' commission visiting West Berlin doubted it was the work of Rembrandt.

"After careful cleaning and restoration, the picture now better resembles its original state and allows a more realistic inspection of the work," the statement said.

The work, which depicts an elderly man in armour wearing a plumed golden helmet painted on a murky background, will be returned to storage with the city's Rembrandt collection.

# Who makes the best selling trucks in Britain?





# ARE YOU AT RISK FROM AIDS?

*AIDS is a serious disease. Not all the information available has been entirely accurate, so many people are confused about who is at risk, how the disease is spread and how dangerous it is.*

*To explain the facts entirely, it is necessary to describe certain sexual practices. These may shock but should not offend you as we are talking about an urgent medical problem.*

*Please read this carefully. It is up-to-date and authoritative. It is only by knowing the true facts about AIDS that we can hope to control the spread of this disease. This requires an effort by all of us.*

Donald Acheson

DR. DONALD ACHESON

Gordon

DR. G. CRONPTON

Alan S. Macdonald

DR. IAIN S. MACDONALD

R. J. Weir

DR. R. J. WEIR

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICERS TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

## WHAT IS AIDS?

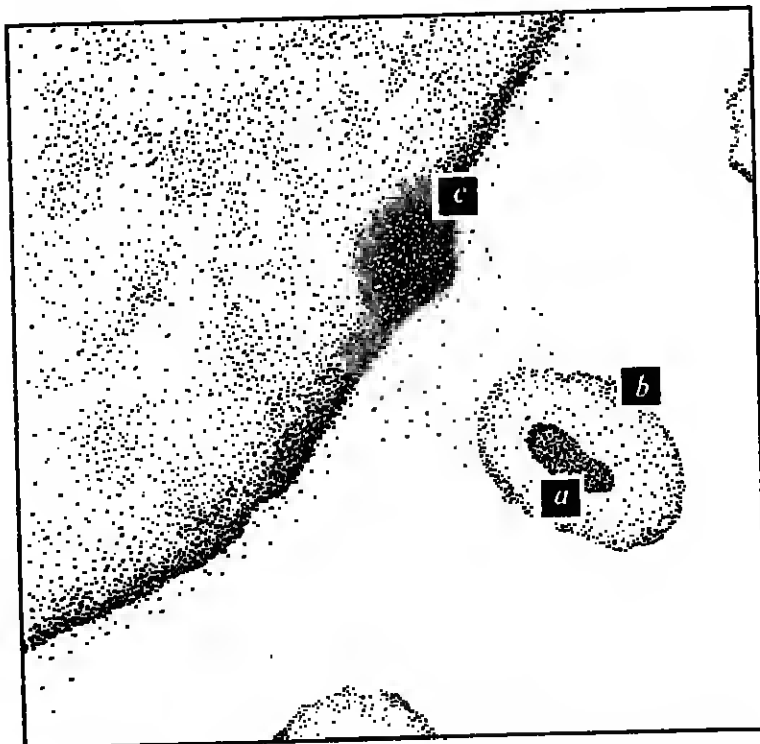
AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

It is caused by a virus that attacks the body's natural defence system.

This is why some people who have the virus can fall prey to infections and other illnesses which rarely trouble healthy people.

Not everyone who carries the virus develops AIDS. But, anyone who has the virus can pass it on.

At present there is neither a vaccine to prevent people catching the virus nor a cure for those who develop AIDS.



a. AIDS nucleoid containing the biological message to cause damage.  
b. Lipid membrane (very fragile). Packages virus and allows movement between cells. c. T helper cell/white cell.

## IS AIDS SPREAD THROUGH NORMAL CONTACT WITH OTHER PEOPLE?

AIDS is caused by a virus which is spread by having sex with an infected person or by injection of contaminated blood.

So normal social contact with a person who carries the virus such as shaking hands, hugging and social

kissing carries no risk. Nor does being at school or at work with infected people.

## DOES AIDS ONLY AFFECT HOMOSEXUALS?

NO.

## IS AIDS SPREAD BY OBJECTS TOUCHED BY INFECTED PEOPLE?

No-one has ever become infected from toilet seats, door knobs, clothes, towels, swimming pools, food, cups, cutlery or glasses.

## ARE BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS SAFE?

Before the virus was discovered, there was a very small risk from blood transfusions. Now all blood donations are screened for the infection. Any blood found to be infected is rejected.

The process of giving blood is not and never has been risky. All the equipment at blood donation centres is sterile and used once only.

## HOW IS AIDS SPREAD?

In two ways.

☐ The virus spreads mostly through sexual intercourse with an infected person.

☐ It is also spread if an infected person's blood gets into someone else's blood. The major risk of this happening is to drug users who share needles or other equipment.

☐ Babies of infected mothers are also at risk, in the womb, during birth, or from breast milk.

## HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU ARE AT RISK?

Injecting drug users are at risk if they share needles or other equipment. By far the best solution is not to inject at all. Those who persist, should not share equipment.

However, the major risk of infection is through sex.

The more sexual partners someone has the more likely they are to have sex with an infected person.

Cutting down on casual relationships cuts down the risk.

The next line of defence is to know what is safe sexual practice and what is not.

## WHAT IS SAFE SEX?

☐ Any sex between two people who are uninfected is completely safe.

☐ Hugging, squeezing and feeling are all safe with anyone.

## WHAT IS RISKY SEX?

☐ Sexual intercourse with an infected person is risky.

☐ Using a sheath reduces the risk of AIDS and other diseases.

☐ Rectal sex involves the highest risk and should be avoided.

☐ Any act that damages the penis, vagina, anus or mouth is dangerous, particularly if it causes bleeding.

☐ Intimate kissing with an infected person may be risky.

## WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

Doctors and scientists around the world are searching urgently for a vaccine or cure.

No-one can predict when this might be found, but it is almost certain it will take some time yet.

But AIDS can be controlled by reducing the spread of infection.

These facts show how it can be done.

## MORE INFORMATION

For the booklet on AIDS, containing more detailed information and advice, write to Dept A, P.O. Box 100, Milton Keynes MK1 1TX.

Or call in strict confidence

✓ THE HEALTHLINE  
✓ TELEPHONE SERVICE:  
✓ 01-981 2717,  
✓ 01-980 7222 or  
✓ 0345 581151.

If you are calling from outside London, use the 0345 number and you will be charged at local rates.

D O N T A I D A I D S



Tamil lifeline cut

# Five killed as blast on track derails train in northern Sri Lanka

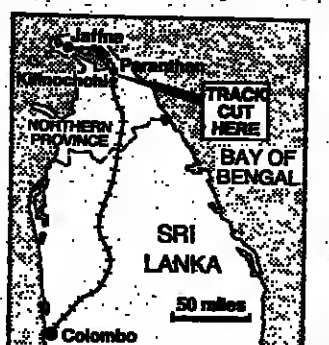
From Michael Hamlyn, Jaffna

This northernmost town of Sri Lanka, and the most densely populated Tamil area in the country, has had its lifeline to the rest of the country cut again as an explosion in a culvert blew up the railway track and derailed a train. Five people died and 37 were injured. Two of the survivors are said to be critically ill in the government hospital here.

The crash yesterday filled the already hard-pressed hospital, which a few days ago was itself the scene of a gun battle between rival factions of one of the groups of militant rebels trying to establish an independent Tamil state in the north and east of Sri Lanka. A nurse and a patient who had come for an electro-cardiogram died in that shooting.

The train, which runs from Colombo to the Jaffna district each day, was wrecked between the northern towns of Kilinochchi and Paranthan. The driver saw the culvert blown up a few yards ahead of him on a fairly fast stretch of track and applied the brakes, but he was not able to prevent the crash.

The explosion was immediately attributed by official statements to "terrorists", and one report referred to "a group of armed terrorists" who threatened the stationmaster at Paranthan, forcing him to abandon his post before blowing the culvert about 100 yards before the station. But the people here firmly believe



that the action was carried out by members of the Sri Lankan armed forces.

They say that it was probably carried out in revenge for the blowing up of a convoy of Sinhalese villagers at Dehiwatta in the Eastern province near Trincomalee.

However, it is at least as likely that it was carried out by Tamil militants, who may have intended to cut the line without loss of life. The train on this stretch carries almost exclusively Tamil passengers. The Sri Lankan railways say that the damage to track and rolling stock will cost 600,000 rupees (£15,000) to put right, but that the train service should be back in order in two or three days. In the past the drivers and staff have been reluctant to continue driving the train after such incidents, and there may be a further delay before this reluctance is overcome.

The fact that the trains have been running so infrequently, and that there have been very few goods trains running on the line, has made for a number of shortages in the Jaffna district.

Petrol, in particular, is in short supply here, and is sold by the bottleful. One bottle of petrol costs 15 rupees, approximately 50 per cent more per gallon than in the south of the country. As a result, there are few cars on the roads, and in return there are few Jaffna products in the south.



A Soviet animal lover sheltering a young puppy in her coat during trading at Moscow's 150-year-old pet market. The market, which regularly attracts 25,000 people in sub-zero temperatures, was granted an eleventh-hour reprieve by municipal authorities after being closed last month because of "unsatisfactory sanitary conditions".

# Black crowds defy Pretoria at township funerals

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Many thousands of blacks in South African townships defied the Government at the weekend as they buried victims of the unrest under the banners of the African National Congress (ANC) and the hammer and sickle.

Some minor clashes occurred between police and mourners, but for the most part the police kept watch from their armoured personnel carriers as the crowds chanted ANC slogans and listened to fiery speakers who ignored magisterial orders that only churchmen could address the funerals.

At least 15,000 people gathered in Guguletu township outside Cape Town, where seven men — allegedly ANC guerrillas — were shot dead by police earlier this month.

They were referred to as "martyrs who have fallen before the enemy bullet". Mr Aubrey Makoena, leader of the Release Mandela Committee, said those responsible for their deaths would one day "stand trial before a tribunal of the people for their crimes".

Only two foreign television crews and two still photographers were allowed into Guguletu under a "pool" arrangement between the state and the media.

At Orkney, 100 miles south-west of Johannesburg, crowds

taunted a police video unit with chants of "Blacks will win with their AK47s" as three men killed in Kanana township clashes were buried.

A wooden replica of an AK47 — the Soviet-made Kalashnikov semi-automatic rifle — was buried with Tanduxolo Mbethe, an ANC guerrilla shot by police in New Brighton township near Port Elizabeth.

Police seized ANC flags from the coffins of two more unrest victims in Saulsville township near Pretoria, where thousands of people defied magisterial orders that only 200 mourners should be buried separately.

Meanwhile, 14 people died in violence at gold mines near Johannesburg, and another two died in township violence, officials said yesterday.

The Anglo American Corporation said seven mine workers were killed and 67 others injured in tribal faction fighting at Vaal Reef mine.

Seven men died at Blyvooruitzicht mine when police and workers clashed after a strike over a new bonus scheme.

In the black township of Jouberton, west of Johannesburg, police said two men were killed when a crowd that had petrol-bombed police vehicles was dispersed.

# India signs Westland agreement

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

India signed on Saturday the long-delayed agreement for buying 21 Westland helicopters, a major boost for the country's civil aviation.

The agreement, concluded shortly before the visit of Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, for internal talks with the Government, had been delayed for some time.

The meeting between the Prime Ministers of India and Britain, Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mrs Thatcher, in London a few months ago is said to have cleared the problems, mostly financial. Britain has given India an outright grant of £65 million to make the purchase of the helicopters possible.

Delhi proposes to set up a helicopter corporation to provide transport for Indian Oil Corporation employees working in remote places and also to carry passengers to airports in busy cities such as Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi.

India also signed on Saturday an agreement for the purchase of 19 Airbus A320 planes to expand and modernize its air transport fleet.

Meanwhile, in Punjab, where extremists have been killing two or three people daily in the past few months, the Indian Government has formally asked the state's Sikh-Akali Government to take "some credible steps" to end the spate of murders.

Mr Arun Nehru, Minister for Internal Security, talked to Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, the Chief Minister, by phone on Saturday and, although this is not the first time Delhi has asked Punjab to take firm steps, it is Mr Nehru's phrase that "his advice should be taken seriously" that makes the situation ominous.

Mr Herpes said: India has signed a memorandum of understanding to buy the aircraft carrier HMS Hermes, Britain's flagship during the Falklands war, the Press Trust of India said yesterday (Reuters reports). Neither British nor Indian officials would confirm the report.

# Ecuador shaken by fighting

Quito (Reuters) — A bloody military battle at Quito's international airport has shaken Ecuador and shaken the fabric of democracy in the country, political analysts said yesterday.

The Government said four people were killed and nine injured in the 90-minute battle to dislodge rebel General Frank Vargas Pazos from the air base alongside the runways of the airport here on Friday. Newspaper reports, however, said at least a dozen people died, including a woman and her year-old child, hit by a stray shot as they watched the fighting.

General Vargas was discovered hiding in a canteen with two of his officers some hours after the battle. He was taken to a military camp in the capital where he is being held under close guard.

The Government said about 200 rebel troops and 200 civilians had also been arrested.

It was General Vargas's second military within a week and political analysts here said it indicated that he might have significant backing within the armed forces.

President Febres Cordero, who declared a state of emergency to deal with the rebellion — closing down four radio stations and clamping a curfew on part of the country — is only Ecuador's third President since the military handed over power in 1979.

President Febres Cordero has emerged strengthened from the mutiny, Western diplomats said yesterday.

The state of emergency was expected to be lifted in the next few days.

A government announcement said the ban on radio stations which broadcast statements by General Vargas during his mutiny was lifted.

Political analysts said a traditional feud between the Ecuadorian Army and Air Force had been exacerbated by Friday's battle.

The military hospital here said the four dead were two civilians and two commandos.

# Tasmania faces battle at Farmhouse Creek

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

A violent confrontation involving conservationists is once again disturbing the placid tempo of life in Tasmania, the island south of the Australian mainland noted for its apples and exquisite wilderness.

Shots have been fired, environmentalists have been involved in ugly and brutal clashes with forestry workers, and dozens of people have been arrested in the battle of Farmhouse Creek. The scene appears set for a protracted and bitter war over the future of Tasmania's magnificent, and valuable, forests.

On one side are the so-called "Greenies" committed to the preservation of the remaining island woodland on the ground that it is an irreplaceable natural resource. They are not opposed to all logging but maintain that the destruction is being hastened by bad and reckless forest management.

One in seven jobs in Tasmania is related to forestry, and the state government of Mr Robin Gray is implacably opposed to the Greenies' cause because there are roughly 25,000 workers dependent, in one way or another, on the timber industry.

The gloves came off with a vengeance a week ago when the Greenies, led by Dr Bob Brown, an independent state MP and veteran of Tasmania's last great environmental war over the Franklin Dam issue, attempted to stop construction of a logging road by lying down in the path of excavators.

In the subsequent clashes, forestry workers manhandled the protesters while police stood by without interfering.

Two days later shots were fired at Dr Brown, apparently with the intention of frightening rather than injuring him.

Last Thursday 30 Greenies were arrested after refusing a police order to move on.

Three years ago the newly-elected Government of Mr Bob Hawke forced the state administration to abandon building a hydro-electricity scheme on the Franklin river.

Whether or not, as some commentators contend, Mr Gray still nurtures a bitter resentment towards the Greenies because of that humiliation, Farmhouse Creek and the forests of Tasmania look liable to become the scene of the next great environmental battle in Australia.



# Who built a brand new £30 million factory in a small Lancashire town?



## Polish leaders answer protests over price rises in TV phone-in

The Polish authorities have pushed up the price of many basic foodstuffs and alcohol from today in a move that has caused much bewilderment and irritation.

The announcement of a 10 per cent rise in vodka and other alcoholic beverages and 8 per cent in staple foods such as bread, milk, butter and sugar came on the Saturday-night television news before a science fiction film with Kirk Douglas and Farrah Fawcett. Poles were invited to phone in their protests to a panel of ministers after the film was over, and speaking live, each of the officials tried to explain the economic rationale and calm down the callers.

Whether the Western phone-in device will defuse the anger can be judged only in the factories this week, as workers have a chance to discuss the price rises among themselves.

The increases on individual food products do not amount to much — a loaf of bread will go up by two zlotys, a litre of milk by one zloty — though the overall impact on the food basket of those on fixed incomes, such as students and

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw pensioners, will be significant.

The average monthly salary is about 17,000 zlotys, or £80, but there are many Poles, especially in the provinces, living on much less.

Much of the anger over the weekend appeared to be directed at the way the price rises were announced, without the elaborate public discussion that has been practised over the past three years.

Arbitrary price rises sparked off discontent several times in Polish postwar history, causing street protests, helping to topple Communist Party leaders, and playing a part in the birth of Solidarity, the now-banned trade union.

Rumours of impending rises were spread by shopkeepers over the past week urging their customers to buy extra bags of sugar, but the announcement still came as a shock.

Solidarity advisers were in contact over the weekend and the union is expected to criticize sharply the manner in which the prices were increased, and the inadequate compensation for the poor.

At the turn of the year petrol prices were pushed up, as were

rents and television licences. Last year basic foods were also made more expensive and the meat price, the most sensitive of all, was increased in July. This year, said the authorities, meat will go up in August.

It seems unlikely that Solidarity will call for strikes: last year a strike call failed and discontent was expressed more through workers asking their managers for higher pay.

The increase that hurts the worker most this time is the 10 per cent increase on vodka. This will contribute significantly to the state budget but will probably also be a boon to the black market.

The vodka move is justified as part of an anti-alcoholism campaign that has gathered force throughout the Soviet bloc since Mr Mikhail Gorbachev became Kremlin leader.

● Congress praise: General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, in a speech to be published this week, praised the Soviet Communist Party congress for acknowledging that each East European ally must exist in its own "historically shaped, national conditions".

## Mario the pragmatist can do no wrong

From Christopher Thomas Albany, New York

The excessive praise heaped upon every deed and utterance of Mr Mario Cuomo, the ill-tempered Democratic Governor of New York, has brought despair in the state Republican Party. Even the mistakes of this Italian immigrant's son are looking good.

He will walk his re-election this year, with a little help from a \$10 million (\$6.6 million) campaign treasure chest that has filled with effortless ease. The Republicans, to their immense embarrassment, are still casting around for a candidate of stature who can be persuaded to submit to a mauling.

Mr Cuomo's governorship is viewed in Albany as tidy, efficient and unspectacular. Mario the Moderate has given way to Mario the Progressive Pragmatist (his own words) who, in sharp contrast to his liberal reputation, has laid off thousands of state workers, cut taxes and spent more on anti-crime measures than any governor in history. The liberal label no longer fits.

He has thereby alienated many New Yorkers who considered themselves his natural constituents, but in the state as a whole his popularity is overwhelming. Some of the most gushing adulation today comes from conservative quarters.

He is on excellent terms with state Republicans, whose opposition is confounded by the lack of something to attack. The old Cuomo, the one who shook up the Democratic national convention with his soaring liberalism, has vanished. Even hodgepodge battles are comparatively friendly affairs nowadays in Albany. Budgets are even produced on time. Left has moved right.



Mr Mario Cuomo: ethnic Reagan cashes in on TV prowess.

The moveable pragmatist is immovably committed on some issues. He flew in the face of state-wide public opinion and vetoed a Bill to introduce the death penalty. He also took on Cardinal John O'Connor, the Archbishop of New York, who said he could not see how a Catholic could in good conscience vote for a candidate who supported abortion.

In a passionate lecture, which he regards as the most important contribution of his political life, delivered at Notre Dame, the country's foremost Catholic university, Governor Cuomo argued that no public official had the right to impose his moral opposition to abortion on others.

For all his national expo-

sure he rarely ventures beyond New York. Most days he is glued to his desk. His chief political adviser is his son, Andrew, aged 28.

Much of his phenomenal popularity in New York stems from his prowess on television. He is Albany's great communicator, an ethnic Ronald Reagan. He said the governor's job is to influence the public by using the post as a "bully pulpit".

From this formidable vantage point he persuaded a grudging public that the state should raise more than \$1 billion to rebuild roads, rail and other facilities to boost trade. At the same time business, income and sales taxes have been held steady or reduced.

## Spacemen prepare Mir for manning

Moscow (Reuters) — The Soviet cosmonauts, Commander Leonid Kizim and Mr Vladimir Solovyov, spent their second day on the new Mir space station yesterday testing its equipment, Tass reported.

Commander Kizim, aged 44, and Mr Solovyov, aged 39, docked their Soyuz T15 craft with the station on Saturday.

They were now activating life-support and temperature control systems and checking the functioning of equipment to prepare the station for manned operation, Tass said.

Physical conditions inside Mir's living quarters were similar to those on Earth. Everything was going according to plan and the two cosmonauts were feeling well, the agency added.

The station was launched on February 20. Due to become the first permanently-manned space station, Mir is the core of a laboratory complex with facilities for attaching six modules.

When the two cosmonauts boarded the station they told millions of television viewers they were delighted with it.

"As we came close it looked like a 'white-winged seagull' soaring above the world," Commander Kizim said in a television broadcast to Earth.

Mr Solovyov held the camera as Commander Kizim gave viewers of the main television news a brief tour. He showed them one of the separate cabins, which are a feature of Mir.

Then he floated over to the main controls, an array of instrument panels and telescopes. "All that our engineers and workers have done, it's a delight, a beauty," he said. "Everything that contemporary technology can create is here."

## Korea film couple in Vienna bid for refuge

Tokyo (Reuters) — A South Korean film director and his actress wife, who went to North Korea eight years ago amid charges that they had been abducted, have sought refuge at the US Embassy in Vienna.

Mr Shin Sang Ok and his wife, Choi Un Hui, entered the embassy last Thursday.

They left Seoul in 1978, appeared in Yugoslavia in 1984 to say they had defected to Pyongyang, then moved to Budapest, where Mr Shin made films for North Korea.

## Delhi escape

Delhi (Reuters) — Charles Sobhraj, aged 42, who was drugged, robbed and murdered tourists in the 1970s, stroled out of Delhi's top-security Tihar jail when his guards passed out from eating drugged sweets brought in by accomplices as a "birthday present".

## Lorry peace

Athens (Reuters) — Greek lorry owners, threatened with jail terms for disobeying government mobilization orders, ended their strike after 27 days when Cabinet ministers promised to amend tax laws.

## Sellers on bail

Newark, New Jersey (Reuters) — Peter Sellers's daughter, Victoria, aged 20, has been freed on a \$100,000 (£67,000) bond after giving herself up to face charges of involvement in an international cocaine ring.

## Writer dies

Athens (AP) — Panteleis Prevelakis, the Greek novelist and author of *Tale of a Town* and *Sun of Death*, both of which were published in English, has died. He was 77.

## Three killed

Delhi (Reuters) — Three people were beaten to death and six seriously injured when a crowd attacked a group who crossed into India from Bangladesh, the Press Trust of India reported.

## Death stings

Nairobi (AFP) — A boy aged six was stung to death by bees when he and two friends threw stones at bees in the Machakos district, the Kenya news agency reported.

## 'Ivan the Terrible' complains

Ramleh, Israel (Reuters) — Alleged Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk, yesterday detained for a further 13 days' questioning, hit back at his Israeli jailers saying he felt he was being held prisoner in the Soviet Union.

Mr Demjanjuk, aged 65, accused of being the Treblinka guard known as "Ivan the Terrible" who operated the gas chambers in which thousands of Jews were killed in Poland in the Second World War, was extradited from the United States two weeks ago.

During his second remand hearing at Ramleh prison near Tel Aviv, the Ukrainian-born retired car worker from Cleveland, Ohio, asked the court through his interpreter if he could "call home because he feels like he's in the Soviet Union".

## Vital bridge across the Nile falls to Museveni

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

President Museveni's National Resistance Army has taken the northern Ugandan town of Pakwach, capturing the only bridge linking the west Nile district with the rest of the country.

The road and rail bridge across the Nile, north of Lake Albert, was taken undamaged and the NRA faced no significant opposition from fleeing troops of the former regime, driven from the capital of Kampala at the end of January.

Mr Museveni's force is now advancing into the west Nile district towards the Zaire and Sudan borders. Large numbers of fleeing troops of the former Military Council regime came from this area, but have already fled to neighbouring countries or have abandoned their arms

and gone to ground in their home villages.

Most of northern Uganda is now controlled by Mr Museveni's Government, but the administrative machinery has yet to be restored.

Mr Museveni has said his Government will seek the return of former Presidents Idi Amin and Milton Obote, now in exile in Saudi Arabia and Zambia respectively, to answer for crimes committed while they were in power.

● Police visit: A British police official has visited Uganda to identify new areas in which Britain can help the country's police force, officials said yesterday (Reuters reports).

Mr John Kelland, overseas police adviser for the British Government, spent three days in Uganda meeting government ministers, judges and police chiefs.

## Softly, softly plea to Britain on acid rain

From Tony Samstag Oslo

Norway has decided to resume a "softly, softly" approach to Britain in the long-standing dispute over the issue of acid rain.

The spring thaw will be in evidence today as Mrs Rakel Surlien, the Norwegian Minister of the Environment, begins a three-day visit to Britain.

All the Nordic countries believe Britain is responsible for as much as a third of the acid deposit falling in southern Scandinavia, killing fish and most other aquatic life in thousands of lakes and rivers and possibly putting large areas of forest at risk.

Emissions from coal and oil-burning power stations are blamed mostly, but Britain insists the case against acid

rain in general, and its contribution in particular, is far from proven.

The issue has become almost fashionable since the Swedes first raised it in 1972. More than 20 nations have agreed to join the so-called "30 per cent club", committed to reducing sulphur dioxide emissions by a third, and Britain is increasingly isolated in Western Europe by its

refusal to do so.

Mrs Surlien says there has been no change in the Norwegian position in spite of the cordial approach. "The view of the Norwegian Government is quite clear — that Great Britain should sign this protocol", and she also scents victory: "I don't see how long you can remain isolated in this way. It must be very difficult to live with."

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## The Gulf War

## UN experts brand Iraq as users of chemical weapons against Iran

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

A United Nations report by an international team of military and medical experts, confirming Iraq's use of toxic gas against Iranian targets in the Gulf war, marks the first time a country has been named for violating the 1925 Geneva protocol banning the use of chemical weapons.

The report, issued at the weekend, was a dramatic breakthrough in efforts to hold countries violating the protocol accountable for their actions.

It is expected to have an immediate effect on Iraq's relations with the West, particularly with the United States and France, which in varying degrees support Baghdad in the conflict.

Iraq welcomed the report as an absolute vindication of its stand, but the Arab world chose to ignore the findings.

Britain, whose troops suffered the effects of mustard gas in the First World War, was expected to lead the way in securing the Security Council's strongest condemnation after it has considered the report this week.

Although the same team of four independent experts had first reported that mustard gas

and nerve gas had been dropped in bombs on Iranian soil in 1984, it stopped short then of putting the blame directly on Iraq.

In the latest report the team did so after hearing crucial testimony from an Iraqi pilot whose aircraft had been brought down by an Iranian air-to-air missile. The pilot stated that he had flown on two missions against Iranian forces using chemical weapons.

In addition, the team interviewed captured Iraqi soldiers who had witnessed and had suffered injuries from chemical bombs dropped by Iraqi aircraft during attacks on Iranian positions.

The team concluded that Iraq had used chemical weapons on many occasions and that their use appeared to be more extensive than in 1984.

Iraq has consistently denied engaging in chemical warfare in the Gulf conflict and has even accused Iran of using it against its own soldiers in order to score propaganda points with international public opinion.

But the conclusive findings of the team will leave even

Iraq's friends with little scope to shield it from censure.

Diplomats said that the report was likely to have the immediate effect of deterring Iraq from making use of chemical weapons, at least for the time being. They noted that the only promising gleam of hope in efforts to stem the conflict was that neither side wanted to appear wholly barbaric and this gave the UN a modicum of leverage.

The report also gives great encouragement to Iran, which is more traumatized by chemical attack than any other type of fighting in the war. Diplomats said that Iran's moral victory meant that it was less likely to resort to chemical weapons in retaliation as it had threatened.

The report is the result of a tour of hospitals and on-site inspection of the Iranian side of the war zone between February 26 and March 3. The experts saw 700 casualties.

The four specialists who conducted the inquiry in Iran are Dr Gustav Andersson of Sweden, Dr Manuel Dominguez of Spain, Dr Peter Dunn of Australia, and Dr Ulrich Imobersteg of Switzerland.



Muslim rebels returning to camp on the southern Philippines island of Mindanao. They are observing an unofficial truce.

## Prospects brighten for better Sino-Soviet ties

Peking (Reuters) — China says prospects are bright for Sino-Soviet co-operation, but concrete steps are needed to improve relations.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Li Peng, said at a banquet last night in honour of the Soviet First Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Ivan Arkhipov, that co-operation between their countries had great potential and bright prospects, the New China news agency reported.

Mr Arkhipov, the most

high-ranking Soviet politician to visit Peking since 1969, hailed the first meeting of the Sino-Soviet economic and trade commission he is attending as an important event.

Despite the warm tone of published excerpts from their speeches, both Mr Li and Mr Arkhipov referred to elements of defence and foreign policies that have strained relations.

Mr Li praised the recent increase in trade — up 60 per cent last year, according to Mr Arkhipov — and other con-

tacts, but said China hoped that obstacles to better relations would be eliminated. China regularly lists three obstacles: Moscow's troops along the Sino-Soviet border, its forces in Afghanistan, and its backing for Vietnam in Cambodia.

Mr Arkhipov indirectly replied to these concerns by quoting Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, as saying better relations must not be at the expense of any third country.

When Mr Gorbachov made this comment at the recent Communist Party congress, diplomats saw it as a clear indication that Moscow would not allow Peking to dictate Soviet policy in Afghanistan or Cambodia.

Mr Arkhipov predicted smooth and fruitful negotiations at yesterday's meeting of the new commission, which was set up under a long-term agreement comprising economic, trade, scientific and technological co-operation.

## Finland's workers back after 58 hours

From Olli Kivinen Helsinki

Finland's leading blue-collar trade union federation SAK ended its first major strike in 30 years after being out 58 hours.

The strike ended late on Saturday with the acceptance of a two-year agreement giving a 2.4 per cent wage rise this year and another 2.6 per cent next year. It also included a promise to cut the working year by 8.5 days by 1990, bringing the average working week to 37.5 hours.

The result was an important victory for SAK, enabling it to regain its position as the leading trade union which had been threatened by the growth of white-collar unions as work moved from the traditional factory towards high-technology enterprise.

It was generally agreed the strike actually strengthened Finland's economic policies based on a broad consensus between the trade unions, the employers and the Government.

It began on Thursday almost by accident as an agreement was very near, but the government and municipalities did not have time to accept it. This gave the whole conflict an unreal atmosphere. The stoppage affected everyday life very little.

## British pledge military assistance to Kuwait

Doha, Qatar (Reuters) — Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said here yesterday that Britain would extend military help to Kuwait, if asked, should the Gulf war spill over into Kuwaiti territory.

"We would consider such a request quickly and sympathetically," he said.

He flew on last night from Qatar to the United Arab Emirates on the third and final leg of his Gulf tour.

He said he believed Kuwait was acting with great restraint and circumspection.

Mr Renton, who arrived in Qatar from Bahrain on Thursday, said, without mentioning Iran, that Britain deplored the latest offensive in the 5½-year-old Gulf war, which brought Iranian troops within sight of the Kuwaiti border.

"We consider any extension of the war into neighbouring countries with very, very great concern indeed," he said.

In Qatar, he chaired a meeting of British diplomats in the Gulf and Arabian peninsula.

After talks with government leaders in Bahrain and Qatar, Mr Renton said that the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) was considering very carefully under what circumstances it would deploy its Peninsula Shield rapid deployment force, if asked to do so by Kuwait.

He said it was sad to see the peace process launched a year ago by King Hussein of Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization's leader, Mr Yasser Arafat, come to a standstill for the time being.

## Law Report March 17 1986

## Directions on summing up in manslaughter

Regina v Goodfellow  
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Boreham and Mr Justice Taylor  
[Judgment given March 14]

A passage on manslaughter in Archbold, Criminal Pleading Evidence and Practice repeated in the 42nd edition, p1632 paragraph 20-49 (7), which was criticized by the Privy Council in *Kong Chee Kwai v R*, reported in *The Times* on July 12, 1985 — on the morning when a judge summed up in a trial involving manslaughter — was very properly drawn to his attention by counsel and the summing up, although based partly on the offending passage, omitted parts of it.

The Lord Chief Justice so stated when giving reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Kevin Goodfellow, aged 24, from conviction at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court (Judge Beaumont, QC and a jury) in three counts of manslaughter and two arson counts. He was sentenced to six years' imprisonment.

Mr G. B. Stewart, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Martin Bethel, QC and Mr M. C. Carr for the Crown.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the appellant set light to the council house he occupied at 24 Coesack Terrace, Pallion, Sunderland, pouring petrol over furniture and setting fire to it. His wife, aged 22, another young woman and his son aged two died.

The appellant, who wanted to move, was having difficulties with two local men, one of whom had been fined for damaging the front door of No 24.

The appellant, who was in arrears in his rent, had no chance of exchanging his council house for another and conceived the idea of setting it on fire as if it had been caused by a petrol bomb.

The grounds of appeal were that the judge failed adequately to direct the jury on the law of manslaughter and in particular had directed them on the basis of the criticized passage in Archbold.

That passage was criticized in *Kwan* as confusing causing death by an illegal act of violence, what had been said in *R v Caldwell* ([1982] AC 341), in *R v Lawrence* (Stephen) ([1982] AC 519) and in *R v Bateman* ([1925] 19 Cr App R 8).

The instant case was capable of falling within either or both types of manslaughter: the *Lawrence* aspect or on the "unlawful act" basis.

On the *Lawrence* aspect the

jury might well have been satisfied that the appellant was acting in such a manner as to create an obvious and serious risk of causing physical injury to some person and second, that he, having recognized that some risk was involved, nevertheless had gone on to take it.

As to a direction on an unlawful and dangerous act: a defendant was guilty of manslaughter where he did an unlawful act such that all sober and reasonable people would inevitably recognize had to subject another person to, at least, the risk of some resulting harm, although not serious harm and caused death — *R v Church* ([1966] 1 QB 59).

Mr Stewart, in submitting that the present case was not one of "unlawful act" manslaughter, relied on *R v Dalby* ([1982] 1 WLR 429) in which Lord Justice Waller said that, where a charge of manslaughter was based on an unlawful and dangerous act, it had to be an act directed at the victim and likely to cause immediate injury however slight.

What Lord Justice Waller was intending to say was that there must be no fresh intervening cause between the act and the death.

Their Lordships doubted the assertion in *Smith and Hogan Criminal Law* 5th edition (1983) p315 that, because the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords refused the prosecutor leave to appeal *Dalby* must be taken to represent the law.

The questions which the jury had to decide on the charge of such manslaughter were: (1) Was the act intentional? (2) Was it unlawful? (3) Was it an act which any reasonable person would realize was bound to subject some other human being to the risk of physical harm, albeit not necessarily serious harm? (4) Was that act the cause of death?

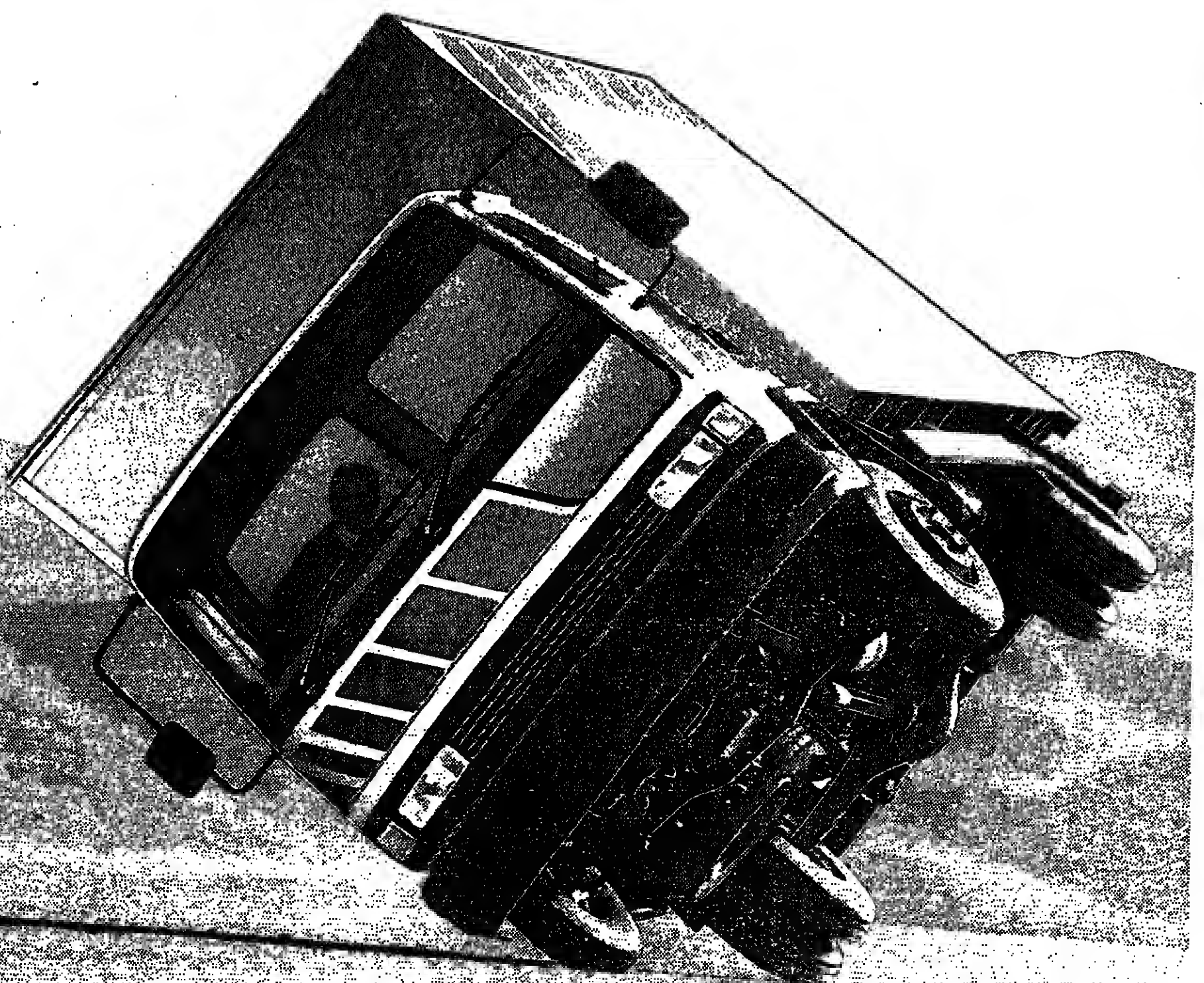
The judge in fact directed the jury on that type of manslaughter. He went further and added observations which were more appropriate to the *Lawrence* type of manslaughter. If anything, those passages resulted in a direction which was more favourable to the appellant than if they had been omitted.

Their Lordships did not consider that the jury might have been confused as Mr Stewart contended.

Even if another point had been decided in favour of the appellant their Lordships would have applied the proviso to section 2(1) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 to dismiss the appeal.

Solicitor: DPP

## Which company has launched 14 new trucks in the last 6 years?





Tomorrow's Budget will be accompanied by proposals to reform Britain's complex and unpopular family taxation system

# Lawson enters the lionesses' den

Family tax, it has long been agreed, is a muddle. Nigel Lawson's predecessor as Chancellor of the Exchequer produced a Green Paper on its defects in 1980. The Government hastily forgot about so contentious an issue. But Lawson's Green Paper will be different: he knows what he would like to do and forewarns us in his last Budget, tomorrow he will provide the full details. Already, however, his ideas are under attack.

Ever since tax allowances for children were replaced by child benefit in 1979, a married couple's tax position has depended simply on whether one or both go out to work. Husband and wife may choose to be taxed separately on their earnings — as if they were just a pair of single people — who happened to live together — but this is an option that is worthwhile only for couples well into the higher-rate tax brackets. For most, tax bills will be lower if the wife allows her income to be treated as part of her husband's, because he then receives a larger allowance than a single man.

Until Lawson tops up allowances in tomorrow's Budget, the single person's allowance of tax-free income is £2,205 a year; the married man's is £3,455. So couples need to be earning a lot — at least £25,360 during 1985-86 — to find it worth forgoing the married man's allowance for the advantage of an independent climb up the tax scales. Only about 170,000 couples are in this category. Even these couples may not achieve complete separation. All investment receipts, however small, are jointly taxed as part of the husband's income. And married couples, whether separately taxed or not, face the same £30,000 joint limit on mortgage relief as a single person.

The tax system reflects the old,

Planned tax reforms for couples will be published tomorrow in a Green Paper.

Sarah Hogg looks at the politics and Sally Brompton talks to the payers

traditional pattern of male breadwinner supporting housewife. But today about 60 per cent of married women go out to work, at least part-time. Their husbands then also receive the wife's earned income allowance, which is at present exactly the same as the single allowance.

It also means that a working couple receive between two and a half times the basic single allowance, making them rather better off than a pair of single people. If there is only one income coming into the family, however, their allowances amount only to one-and-a-half times the single allowance. The final bizarre feature of the present system is the exception to that rule: if it is the wife rather than the husband who is the sole breadwinner, her income still counts as his, and he may claim both the married man's and the wife's earned income allowances.

Treating the income of married women as belonging to their husbands has been condemned as illegal sex discrimination by the courts in other European countries. An end to discrimination, however, is not an end to the problem of how families should be

taxed. Governments face a fundamental choice. Either the taxman should simply ignore marriage or the system should treat the couple as the basic tax unit, while taking no notice of whether husband, wife or both bring home the family income.

Independence in tax — the first option — is favoured by many women's groups. The objection is that it would cut the family income of couples of whom only one went out to work. Many of these are not well off, and are caring for young children. Joint taxation, which takes no notice of who earns what, is the preferred tax option in West Germany and the basis of the system in France. The objection is that this discriminates between single people and married couples.

Tomorrow the Chancellor will give details of his attempt to get round both these difficulties. Under his scheme for "transferable allowances", husband and wife would each have exactly the same allowance as a single person. But to help the couple with only one earner, the other would be allowed to transfer her (or his) allowance to set it against the sole family income. Whether husband, wife or both do the earning, the couple receives two single allowances.

This compromise has already attracted criticism. It has been rejected in advance by a committee of the House of Lords, chaired by Baroness Serota. This committee, however, collected a wealth of evidence, much of which showed some support for the idea of transferable allowances. But the Institute of Fiscal Studies objects that transferable allowances would discourage married women from working, because their husbands' take-home pay would fall as the transferred allowance was switched back to the wife. The Child Poverty Action Group argues that mothers kept at home by child-care responsibilities should be helped by child benefits, not tax allowances. The Fawcett Society has argued that transferable allowances would interfere with women's privacy.

The first objection points up the fact that "transferable allowances" are something of an optical illusion. They look like a move towards independent taxation; in fact, they move the system further towards joint taxation. Under the present system, couples will be taxed less if the wife goes out to work for part of the family income; under "transferable allowances" they will not. Some groups have complained that the Chancellor is trying to drive women back to the kitchen sink. Others, like the Institute of Taxation, believe the change would



Unfair system? The Brittain family



Unequal dues? The Swann family

remove the bias in the present system.

Most women's groups prefer in principle the alternative of independent taxation. But few argue this should apply to investment income; and as the number of women with modest savings rises, so this exception will increasingly inhibit the development of the tax system in that direction. At the other end of the income scale, the social security system continues to treat married couples jointly.

The CPAG's objections reinforce its campaign for bigger child benefits. Surveys show that most women prefer cash help in hand to cash in their husband's pay packet. Child benefits, however, are expensive because they go to all families. Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, proposes to cut the cost by means-

## WOMEN WITH CAUSES FOR COMPLAINT

When Caroline Brittain, aged 34, gave up a secretarial job six-and-a-half years ago to start a family she said goodbye to financial independence and the family lost the benefit of her £2,205 tax allowance. Today, with two sons aged six and four and another child on the way, she receives just £14 in child benefits. "I do feel that the system as it stands is unfair", she says. "It does not seem right that I should lose my allowance, whereas if it was me who was working instead of my husband we would be entitled to both allowances."

"On the other hand, if they were to add my allowance on to my husband's I wouldn't actually get anything in my hot little hand, as it

were. He certainly wouldn't be obliged to hand over anything to me. At least with child benefit you do have a little bit of income which you can put in your purse and go and use as you like."

"So I think that as far as I'm concerned I would prefer my child benefits to be increased — just so that I had that extra bit of cash of my own."

For the first four years of their marriage both Caroline and her husband, Nicholas, a 42-year-old chartered surveyor, were working but even then Caroline felt that they should be receiving equal allowances. "I was running our home and paying off debts, so there was no logical reason why we should not have been receiving the same tax incentives."

Lindsay Swan was determined to retain her independence, in the extent of keeping her maiden name, when she married Richard Dunn, nine years ago. "Richard and I are taxed separately, we have separate earnings, and we don't have a joint bank account", she says. "I couldn't believe it when I discovered that the interest on my British Telecom shares would be added on to his tax."

A partner in her own public relations consultancy, Lindsay, aged 34, has firm ideas on financial equality. "I am a business woman who runs her own empire and surely I can take care of all my tax, including any investments I may have. It's my money that buys the shares and I receive the interest, so why can't I pay the income tax? Richard and I have no secrets as far as our finances are concerned, but I just

feel that it's something I should be able to look after myself."

Richard, aged 34, a consultant chartered engineer, was also amazed when he first learned that Lindsay's investment income would be added to his income for taxation purposes. "It's not the actual money that we're concerned about — it's not very much anyway — and we don't have that competitive thing about money", says Lindsay. "It really is a matter of principle. It seems ridiculous that someone in my position is not able to take care of her own financial affairs as she chooses."

She also feels that separate taxation is a must for someone in a business partnership like herself — despite the fact that it is not financially viable for a married couple jointly earning less than £25,361 after all deductions apart from personal allowances.

## THE EUROPEAN OPTIONS

Nowhere in the European Economic Community is a married couple taxed exactly the same as two single people. In all countries, they are taxed jointly on their investment income. In many, however, they are allowed some separation of their tax affairs.

● **FRANCE** is the most family-minded and a husband, wife and children living together, are taxed together. Tax bills are then reduced according to the size of the family, in a way particularly generous to those with lots of children. Child care expenses for children under the age of three, are allowed against tax.

● **GERMANY** allows couples to opt for separate taxation. In

practice, however, most opt for joint taxation because their combined income is taxed as if they were two single people each earning exactly half the total. This system of "equal splitting" tends to reduce the tax on the higher of the two family incomes. Tax deductions are also allowed for dependent children.

● **ITALY** moved towards independent taxation of husband and wife in 1977. All earned income is treated individually. The couple's investment income is normally totted up and then taxed as if each received half. But Italy still retains some elements of joint taxation because husbands (or wives) receive family tax-credits which depend on the incomes of their partners.

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## Massacre in the Andes

He has been dubbed the "Creole Pol Pot" and "the monster of the Andes", and even he admits in his profane, guttural, ungrammatical Spanish that he has grown "weary of killing so many *hijueputa* (sonofabitch)".

With reason for in recent weeks Javier Delgado and his henchmen have slaughtered 164 people in south-western Colombia. Men, women and children had been charged, tried and condemned under "revolutionary justice" and then garrotted, a rope strung round their necks and suddenly pulled as taut as a guitar string, so tight that Delgado's men joked you could strum a tune on it. Finally came the butcher's of the *corde de chuleco* (waistcoat slash), a knife ripping open the bellies to prevent the corpses inflating and resurfacing after burial. Not even the bodies of pregnant women were respected.

But the dead did not stay in their graves. The first were discovered by *campesinos* in the Tacueyo region of the Cauca department, protruding grotesquely out of the boggy ground, skeleton jaws still gripped in terror. Police initiated a search and quickly found countless more scattered over the area.

Today Tacueyo symbolizes the terrible madness that has swept through Colombia's guerrilla movements, long the most active in South America. Most Colombians thought that mindlessness had reached its nadir in the bloody may-

hem of the siege of the Palace of Justice in Bogotá by terrorists of the April 19 movement (M-19) last November. But what happened at Tacueyo suggests there is no limit to the insanity.

Delgado is the fanatical and surely deranged leader of a small, obscure ultra-militant group called the Ricardo Franco Front. It is a measure of his paranoia that he claims "little ruins" executed were paid informers of the military who had infiltrated the ranks of the "Francos", a group whose numbers have never exceeded 200.

Delgado, aged 34, a tall, beefy man with fish-like eyes, a Roman nose, the shadow of a Che Guevara beard, an incomprehensible line in Marxist ideology, and a taste for contraband English gin, has also been tagged "Colombia's Ahimael Guzman", most apt of all the comparisons drawn since his sudden rise to infamy.

Guzman, a Peruvian, may



well be dead but the seeds of terror he planted in his country in the late 1960s when he founded the sinister Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) subversive movement still flourish. Taking China's Gang of Four, the Cambodian Khmer Rouge and Albania as models, Sendero Luminoso has gained a chilling reputation for atroc-

ities in its pursuit of a Maoist peasant revolution and a return to the glories of the Inca past.

Previously Colombians had tended to think of their own country's guerrillas as rather more sophisticated. No more. Today it seems the Francos and M-19 are determined to challenge Sendero as the most barbaric insurgents of the Andes.

Delgado and the current M-19 leaders are light years removed from a more respected tradition of Colombian insurgency that once attracted some of the nation's best and brightest idealistic intellectuals as well as barely literate but strong-willed *campesino* leaders.

The country's most celebrated guerrilla was Father Camilo Torres, a figure as revered as Che by the Latin American Left. Torres, killed in action 20 years ago, is the inspiration of the Paraguayan priest-turned-subversive in Graham Greene's *The Honorary Consul*.

A former colleague said that Delgado "bought" militancy from ransom funds raised through kidnapping wealthy landowners. As a result, the Francos are the best paid guerrillas in Colombia, earning 40,000 pesos (about £160) a month, double the minimum wage.

Colombia remains a functioning if imperfect two-party democracy. Despite its continuing failure to meet the ever-mounting needs of the urban and rural poor, the nation has become more open under President Belisario Betancur, who knew and admired Torres and who has, with mixed results, boldly sought to negotiate peace with the guerrillas.

The Francos are a break-away dissident group of the biggest subversive movement, the Moscow-line revolutionary armed forces of Colombia (FARC), often called the armed wing of the Colombian Communist Party. FARC has broadly honoured ceasefire pacts and is currently reorganizing as a mainstream political movement which will contest the presidential election in May.

But there are real fears that men like Delgado could plunge the nation into a new era of violence to rival the sectarian civil war that raged between liberals and conservatives in the 1950s, in which an estimated 300,000 perished.

Delgado stands alone. He has declared war not only on the government, the oligarchy and the armed forces, but also on FARC, the Communist Party and the left in general for "betraying" the revolutionary cause.

"This is the most difficult period of the revolutionary life I've ever known but also the one that has most filled us with pride as revolutionaries", he pontificated to journalists at a Franco encampment. Nearby six *hijueputa*, hands tied behind their backs, were being fed like dogs by his men.

One was a 13-year-old boy — a military intelligence agent, according to Delgado.

One is reminded of the Peruvian novelist Mario Vargas Llosa's description of Ahimael Guzman as "a man motivated by messianic passion, fanaticism, the belief that he is the uniquely enlightened one to save the country".

The feeling on the Colombian left is that given enough time and enough rope Delgado will eventually hang himself, as surely as he and his men throttled to death the 164 hurried at Tacueyo.

Geoffrey Matthews

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 901

ACROSS  
1 Rescue (5)  
4 Newness (7)  
8 Offbirth (5)  
9 Ground (7)  
10 Religious offering (8)  
11 Small island (4)  
13 Widely-influential (3,8)  
17 Woodwind instrument (4)  
18 Rich (8)  
21 Minuet-like movement (7)  
22 Tongue base-bone (5)  
23 Torture (7)  
24 Diving bird (5)

DOWN  
1 Older (6)  
2 Essential (5)  
3 Lone (8)  
4 Right-wing group (8,5)  
5 Green (4)  
6 Go-between (7)  
7 Over there (6)  
12 Total extent (5,3)  
14 One more (7)  
15 Pamper (6)  
16 Seamed pudding (6)  
19 Flew with lover (5)  
20 At liberty (4)

هكذا من الأصل



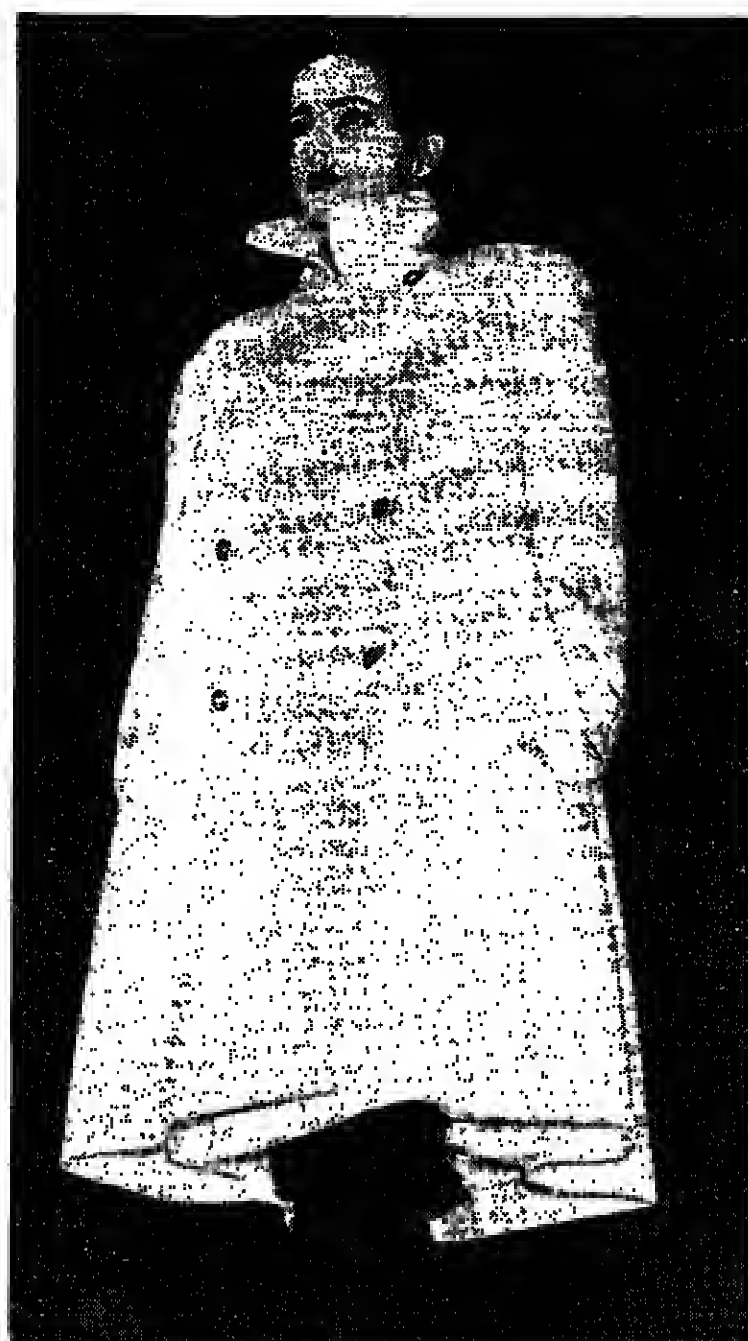
## MONDAY PAGE

## In grandmother's footsteps

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIONS

LONDON

British designers have forsaken punk for 1950s Paris fashion — tight skirts, high heels, and the French poodle as the ultimate accessory



Left to right: Betty Jackson's Parisian poodles. Alistair Blair's shapely evening dress. Jasper Conran's swiny tailored coat.

Chic with cheek is the new young London look. These designers still showing dressing-up clothes are finding themselves in a punk creek without a safety pin.

The stand-out collections were Alistair Blair, a Scot trained in Paris and new to London's fashion scene; and Jasper Conran, whose perky interpretation of Dior's New Look seemed just that. Blair is aged just 30. Conran 26. Both were babies in arms when Paris couture ruled the fashion world and it is their own generation — the children of the 1960s and 1970s — who are already wearing this look on the streets. Their mothers, who swapped corsets for fashion freedom, will find the nouvelle couture a great shock, especially when they realize that the new generation — as ever in fashion — is tiptoeing in grandmother's footsteps.

The line is tight and curvy, but not necessarily short. It starts from a waisted jacket, which tops a skinny skirt or a much longer pleated one. The mood is pert and sexy, with fabrics that cling, and wool jersey the favourite. There is a strong return of the short day-dress and of the longer Princess line for coats. The evening, and much of the daywear, centres on the Little Black Dress.

Jasper Conran told me that he was making a "grown-up" collection. He did just that. It means that he has matured as a designer while his clothes look fresh and young. Apart from a scene with black leather, which designers worldwide should now lay to rest, this was a splendid show, played out in black and white with dashes of hot colour. The two strong silhouettes were the shapely suit, best in dogtooth check, and the fuller New Look pleats under a short jacket. The large evening wear section gave us 57 varieties of the LBD, from a quilted velvet sheath to flirty full skirts in black chantilly lace.

Alistair Blair proved his debt to Karl Lagerfeld, with whom he worked for four years after Dior and Givenchy couture. Blair showed all the restraint Karl never has, and none of the master's wit. The result was covetable clothes in fitted yet fluid shapes and luxurious fabrics. Blair understands couture cutting; capes grew effortlessly from the backs of his coats, bias-cut drapes bisected crepe evening dresses.

His silhouette is totally Parisian: a fitted three-quarter coat over a short slim skirt and a narrow evening line that shadows the body without gripping it (something most British designers still have to learn). Flat

silver buttons and some couture touches of fabric rosettes were the only decoration on clothes that were sexy but classy and made a good debut for a new designer.

London's leading young couturier, Bruce Oldfield, gave a disappointing show overall, although many of the individual dresses were appealing. An off-the-shoulder boat-shaped neckline was a strong evening line that is coming through elsewhere in London.

Oldfield also makes subtly draped jerseys and should be given full credit for seeing, long before the rest of the London designers, the potential of what is now called nouvelle couture. Oldfield makes clothes for sophisticated women who rise at noon, and he would be wiser to show only his glamorous evening clothes.

It is a steady season for the regular designers, whose role model has always been the discreet Princess of Wales rather than raunchy Madonna. Roland Klein took the fitted three-quarter riding jacket, put it over a slim knee-length skirt in day and evening fabrics. Murray Arfield opted for Dynasty dressing, with predatory scarlet and black evening dresses, gold lamé poured over black velvet and what can best be de-

scribed as Krystle embroidery, sumptuously worked as *trompe-l'oeil* jewellery. Yuki and Patricia Lester both produced columns of elegant pleats. Lester's with no shape but a great sense of colour and texture, Yuki with the cut of couture, to which he spiritually belongs.

I question the wisdom of most of these designers, and many of the more commercial young ones, in showing on the runway. The 9,000 buyers and Press now drawn to London want to see the unbridled imagination for which we are known. Yet many of the freer spirits show around town simply take stands at Olympia 2, rather than making the statement of a show.

If couture is ousting punk, where does that leave the more outrageous or creative designers?

Betty Jackson has moved on from oversized and brought her silhouette closer to the body. She sent up the couture mood with her sharp tailoring and her French poodle accessories (jewelled and real). John Rocha strains at inventive tailoring and sometimes pulls off a good shape. Like John Galiano, who cuts cleverly but whose clothes are uncompromisingly odd, Rocha has a talent — but one still in bud.

Designers who work closely with fabric printers had a good season.

Photographs by HARRY KERR.

Body Map came down to earth, landing in Elizabethan England, which brought a subtle Tudor Rose print by Hilde Smith which was used for stretch leotards and dressing gown robes. A very tight body line under a loose coat is a London look and it gave Body Map its mix of ebullience and sexiness.

Sensuality lifts the new couture out of a prim 1950s mould. Katharine Hamnett's collection emphasized the blatant sexuality that pulsates through young music and style. Her menswear was powerful, centred on the suit, also in a 1950s silhouette but with a much lighter construction. Hamnett did not work hard enough at her women's wear, bringing out again the shredded denim that is part of a hippie revival story. Freshier were her witty sexist secretary clothes: striped blouses and skin-tight skirts.

Sociologists are talking about a return to sexual restraint by the young, and see that echoed in fashion by a return to conventional tailoring. But nouvelle couture is not po-faced and strict, but sexy and fun. This is how it is shown and will be worn.

Suzi Menkes  
Fashion Editor

## Vengeance as a sweet art form

Living well is said to be the best revenge but it can't be half as much fun as ensuring that the object of one's vengeance has a perfectly horrible time.

I am always coming across good revenging tips in books: a wife who stirred a megadose of Ex-Lax into her husband's chocolate mousse on the evening that he had an assignment with his mistress; a woman who put dead birds under her husband's pillow. It wasn't the stiff little corpses that made him suffer. What really got to him was that when he asked her what she meant by it all, she replied: "If you don't know that, I can't help you."

Real life is an equally promising source of material. I have a friend who broke into her departed lover's new flat, piled his clothes into a neat pyramid and set fire to them. What made that particularly bit of revenge so thoroughly satisfactory was that the man was such a lovely dresser. His suits were fluid Italian tweeds and he had drawers of sugar-almond coloured American shirts and sweaters just like the Great Gatsby. It is taking him years and a fortune of airline tickets to build up a new wardrobe.

I witnessed another spot-on little episode while I was visiting a man who had recently escaped his domestic responsibilities by renting a "studio" the size of a decent broom cupboard. The doorbell rang and there was Pickford, asking where to put the books. The books? Indeed, all 2,000 of them, packed up in massive crates and dispatched by his wife, who was at that moment rattling around in the couple's 10-bedroomed mansion and laughing her head off whenever she caught sight of an empty bookcase.

It is the little meannesses that spur one to thoughts of revenge. Such as the suggestion from a soon-to-be ex-husband that one's possessions should be divided in such a way that out of a



PENNY PERRICK

set of 12 champagne glasses (one broken) he should have six. At these upsetting times, one's female friends are a source of comfort and inspiration.

Byron was quite right when he said, "Sweet is revenge — especially to women". I have never seen such sparkling eyes and prettily flushed cheeks as those of the woman I know as they made suggestions as to what should be done with the champagne glasses. The neatest plan was to pulverize them in the liquidizing machine and put the crumbs of glass in a box marked "Six champagne flutes, as requested".

The next time someone trots out that tired old lament about why aren't there any great female composers/artists/chefs, I will not have to rely on my usual rejoinder that there are but they remain unnoticed. I will be able to say that women express their genius in other creative ways, especially in devising perfect schemes of revenge, and you only have to go back to Salome to know that it is true.

Women are so good at this kind of evil-doing because they need to be. Any group which is denied power has to console itself with little every-day rebellions and inconsequential victories, as well as a primitive certainty that one day, those who have the power to hurt and destroy will get their come-uppance.

## A phone by any other name

Have you ever wondered what is happening to the red telephone kiosks designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1924, now that they are being replaced by boring grey canopies? They are being shipped off to America and promoted by Sir Giles's great-nephew, Malcolm Gilbert Scott, as something that will "complement all types of decor and lifestyle".

Mr Gilbert Scott also insists that "cleverly have already discovered a host of ingenious uses for their boxes in the home, garden or office", which is more than I ever could. You couldn't turn them into a shower-cubicle because the door is too heavy. You couldn't throw in a couple of silk cushions and

convert them into a love-nest because their narrowness leaves no room to manoeuvre.

This is no fault of Sir Gilbert, who designed his kiosk to make telephone calls in and to provide a cheerful, scarlet sight on a rainy evening for travellers who had got lost or were running late and needed to let somebody know.

Sir Gilbert's box is a thing of beauty in its own right and I suppose that, if you had a mind to, you could just park it in your living-room for its ornamental value. But I think you would very tired of answering the question, "What is that telephone kiosk doing in here?" every time you had visitors.

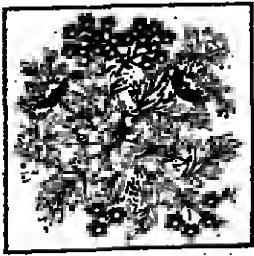
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## The price of success

If you've sold your son on the idea that the road to a high-flying future lies in getting into Oxbridge, and spent his christening mentally measuring out his life in terms of victrolas, you could, according to a psychologist, be channeling him into candidature for future cardiac disease.

Paul Bracke, of Stanford University, California, has given parents a whole new area to worry about in the "must try harder" zone. All of us who have anything to do with children can probably plead guilty to summoning the fantasy fairies of health, wealth and prosperity around the crib, but it is possible in the upwardly striving 1980s that we want these things too much and push our children too hard to attain them, with alarming consequences.

Bracke's research shows that Type A behaviour, associated with high-risk heart disease, begins at home, and more specifically, in the relationship between father and son.

Dr Steve Duck, a former senior lecturer in psychology at Lancaster University and now professor of communication studies at the University of Iowa, tells us to "look for a lot of eye movement. Type As are easily distracted and looking for something else to do. They fidget and move their hands a lot. They're tense, hard-driven, competitive types who don't do many things for a laugh and are committed to their work".

Pushy parents with great expectations can create children heading for heart disease, warns an American researcher

much more likely to discipline with physical and intimidating techniques. In his study of 184 children aged from 11 to 15, Bracke claims Type A children could face a greater risk of heart disease than their Type B counterparts. Like father, like son, boys with several Type A characteristics shared many health problems with their paternal role-models. They suffered insomnia, muscle tension and stomach upsets, racing heartbeats, cold sweats and frequent lengthy bouts of anger.

Arthur Crisp, professor in psychiatry at the sleep laboratory attached to St George's Hospital, London, says Type As do tend to sleep less although that may be simply because they need less. "I would say clinically that Type A parents do pressurize their children. It's a sort of middle-class attitude on the part of those families who want their children to achieve and succeed."

It may, to us, sound rather American. But in Britain, too, stress in children is being watched closely and thought by many to be reaching dangerous levels.

With a divorce rate of nearly one in three, vast numbers of boys are shouldering the responsibility of being "man of the house" from the tenderest years.

Prevention and Treatment), is worried about the results of other pressures on children. A survey among 600 youngsters by ACCEPT has found what Mr Vetter says is "an amazing amount of drinking between the ages of 11 to 15".

Dr Kirk Weir, consultant psychiatrist at Guy's Hospital, Lewisham, says a chief cause of anxiety in children is families breaking up. He says one characteristic of high-achieving families is that many parents who believe their child has a reading or concentration problem "under them to be called dyslexic because that gives them some kind of acceptable excuse."

Bracke's notion that pushy parents can cause hostile, competitive personalities heading for heart disease is one which British doctors and psychologists regard with scepticism. Bracke himself says: "We don't know for sure that the children are going to be adult Type As but we really are measuring something that's consistent with age."

Barrie Brown, senior lecturer in psychology at the Institute of Psychiatry, says: "What has struck me very much in recent years is the high number of young people who suffer from a range of symptoms remarkably similar to adult depression."

"Many of the issues raised are lack of jobs, a sense of futility, of having parents who don't understand them, push them, and have unreasonable expectations. All these apply. Heart disease or not — with adults everywhere currently swapping their gold-topped pints for skimmed milk, and warning their offspring of the hazards of smoking, now is probably as good a time to re-examine our ambitions for our children's future."

Heather McGlone

## Help make it one.



Many things divide the world. Some, like hunger and poverty, are all too visible. Others we see less easily: perceptions, and assumptions. These — until we know it — create the deepest divisions of all.

The work of VSO volunteers throughout Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific is therefore concerned with the whole condition. Volunteers have much to teach (whether in diesel mechanics or medicine, education or small business management).

But just as much to learn. For example, the Third World is far from lagging behind the rest of us, as this demeaning title suggests — has values and abilities which are badly needed in the advanced economies of East and West.

The realisation comes to most volunteers, sooner or later, during their two-year commitment. And each time it happens, the world draws closer.

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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Racist tendency

The campaign by some Labour activists for black sections — which have been outlawed by the party — grows more fratricidal. A national committee representing the sections has withdrawn co-operation from the national executive's Black and Asian Advisory Committee. The sections' first newsletter, which has fallen into my hands, condemns the advisory committee as "a body imposed on the black community which elsewhere would be denounced as a Bantustan sham". The newsletter boasts that two more constituencies, making five in all, are to allow black section delegates to vote at meetings to select parliamentary candidates (rendering the selection officially void). The two are Norwood, where John Fraser, an ex-minister, could find himself under pressure, and Sleaford. The newsletter has no time for Derek Hatton, however. It says that though 8 per cent of Liverpool's population is black, only 0.8 per cent of its workforce is black; and that of more than 1,000 day-care places only six have gone to blacks. "Liverpool City Council is racist," it concludes.

### Smoked out

Stuart Holmes, who gave up his home and job to travel Britain in a crusade against tobacco, has just won a victory on Greater Manchester buses. Holmes — whom I met last autumn sleeping rough outside the SDP conference — has in the past few months pursued David Graham, director-general of the transport executive, even into the office to persuade him to ban cigarette advertising on buses. Graham has now agreed to hand over unbooked space for anti-smoking posters. "I find him a bit odd but I realize he's sincere," says Graham, wearily. "Just so long as his campaign doesn't cost me revenue or prevent me from lighting up..." He is a self-confessed 60-a-day man.

### Frozen out

Talk about exclusivity: the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva has told Opec ministers meeting for oil talks this week to slum it elsewhere because it is fully booked by stars of the world figure-skating championship. Before last year's Reagan-Gorbachev summit, the American contingent found the same hotel solidly booked by a Rotary convention. But that time, thanks to a rare concession, the peace-makers eventually got their beds.

● The producer of this year's Oscars ceremony has written to nominees asking them to restrict their acceptance speeches to 45 seconds by not "thanking the whole world, their agents or their mothers".

### Unseen Hurd

You might think Granada TV would be keen to keep its friends in high places sweet. After all, Rank, despite a snub from the IBA, is still chomping to take it over. Winston Churchill's obscenity bill is getting tacit support from the government and the jockeying over ITV franchises begins again soon. But not a bit of it. Having already spent £140,000 on filming Douglas Hurd's thriller *War Without Frontiers*, Granada has told the Home Secretary it is shelving the project until next year. "Our schedules are just too full," said a spokesman. And with what? One project taking precedence is *First Among Equals*, the masterpiece from the pen of the Tory deputy chairman, Jeffrey Archer. Can it be that Granada sees him as the one to cultivate?

BARRY FANTONI



'The Tories hardly need a new manifesto when so much of the old one still applies'

### Nelson's victory

Hitler's genocide took all of 30 years before it made it to American prime time. South Africa's nightmare looks as if it will have a shorter wait before getting the Hollywood mini-series treatment. Harry Belafonte, the black civil-rights campaigner and film star, is set to make a TV blockbuster about Nelson and Winnie Mandela. The networks are already scrambling for the rights. Belafonte is chasing the émigré South African writer Mary Benson, who has written a book on Mandela and edited another on his wife. "Other producers from the States are also interested. Not since Garibaldi has a rebel so much imagination," she told me. I understand that Dickie Attenborough's own stab at an apartheid epic to rival *Gandhi*, based on books by banned South African journalist Donald Woods, is about to go into production. PHS

## Michael Binyon assesses the new moral element in global policy



### Where will the liberty debate take America?

burden... to assure the survival and success of liberty."

It is a conservative Republican administration that preaches an interventionist message, seeking to convince the United Nations of the need to support anti-communist insurgencies in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Angola, Ethiopia and Nicaragua. And it is the liberal who have revealed into neo-isolationism which not only condemns the Kennedy and Johnson policies in Vietnam but insists that America must never again over-commit itself abroad.

There is an historical irony in the argument now used by the New Right about moral leadership, the contention that "America is the home of the democratic revolution, and our foreign policy only makes sense if it accurately reflects the internal nature of the American experiment". For it was for years the Democrats who championed liberal internationalism. From Roosevelt to Lyndon Johnson, US foreign policy was dominated by the vision of an activist, interventionist America, aiming to promote freedom and world order through international institutions such as the UN and anti-communist alliances.

And even after Vietnam destroyed the will for physical intervention, the last gasp of this vision, Jimmy Carter's humanitarian policy, preached moral intervention with rhetorical elegance to universalist ends.

Conservatives, on the other hand, had always been the backbone of pre-war isolationism, the wish to avoid foreign entanglement, to retreat into "fortress America". Conservatives had al-

ways been more inclined to *Realpolitik*, to worry less about sons-of-bitches "so long as they are our sons-of-bitches". The last gasp of this foreign policy was the pragmatism of Henry Kissinger, who — at least while in office — was more interested in constructing a Metternichian framework than to America's advantage than in looking too closely at the values of those countries on which these relationships rested.

Now much of this has changed. To the New Right and the Reaganite conservative, Kissinger's world view is anathema, not so much because he tolerated extreme right-wing allies (the Reagan administration has been equally bappy to tolerate authoritarian regimes in South Korea, Pakistan and, until recently, the Philippines), but because he put pragmatism above ideology and was not interested in a moral crusade against communism.

The conservatives are now the ones preaching liberation philosophy and extolling "freedom fighters", but it is liberation from Marxism, not from other forms of poverty or oppression.

Meanwhile the old centrist liberals, those who long dominated the foreign policy establishment, have taken up the cudgels against the conservatives, using language that sounds more like Kissinger realism than liberalism. George Kennan, the grand old man of American diplomacy who first outlined the doctrine of containment 40 years ago, returned to his forum in *Foreign Affairs* recently to denounce the penchant for playing the moral policeman

He said America confused morality with self-interest, pursuing over-ambitious foreign and military policies that left it over-stretched and unable to make use of its diminishing resources. The first step on the path of morality was the recognition of the gap between American dreams and their realization.

The labels "interventionist" and "isolationist" have become thoroughly confused, and the debate today is not always consistent. Arguments on what serves America's national interest or where these interests lie have been mixed up with ideological posturing. Each side accuses the other of naivety. And on some issues, other considerations muddy the waters: attitudes on intervention in Lebanon, for example, were determined by Washington's close ties with Israel.

Mrs Jeanne Kirkpatrick, a pillar of the New Right, won Reagan's admiration by championing authoritarian regimes over communist ones as being the lesser of two evils. But neither her policies towards Argentina in the Falklands nor her vigorous espousal — until the last moment — of Ferdinand Marcos influenced the Reagan administration.

Even within the administration the battle between ideologists and pragmatists continues. On some key issues the classic roles of the Pentagon and the State Department have been reversed: George Shultz, the Secretary of State, is the hawk on intervening to take action against terrorism, while Caspar Weinberger, the viceroy anti-Soviet Defense Secretary, has proved very cautious about committing American military forces anywhere.

President Reagan has not yet publicly entered the debate, or given his blessing to the new doctrine named after him. Nor have his supporters thoroughly defined the synthesis it purports to make of the traditional policies of left and right. But in this state of flux, American foreign policy is still evolving. Such a policy cannot yet be called a "doctrine".

Anne Sofer

## Mr Fixit the budget fudger

As the evenings lengthen and the chill light of an early Easter is suddenly visible after the harsh February, the season of council rate-setting draws to a close. This week and next the last few borough councils, amid a flurry of last-minute amendments and a salvo of ritual denunciations of this Tory Government, will shake the figures together one final time, find they suddenly, miraculously add up, and vote through the budget. The finance officers will wipe the sweat from their brows, close their voluminous files and leave the chamber with a lighter step: another intricate and difficult operation safely performed, and the patient still alive.

The ritual that has developed around setting a rate in the high-spending, rate-capped councils does in fact follow, in primeval fashion, the mood of the seasons. The government announces the limit for the following year's rate in high summer. To begin with it is treated with derision and mockery. As autumn draws on, fog and gloom swirl around the calculations and by mid-winter the picture is thoroughly bleak. Yawning gaps are identified. The government's limit is found to be appallingly inadequate. Long lists of cuts are prepared. The finance officer demonstrates how disaster stares the council in the face, with huge losses of jobs and services. Armed with these figures, deputations confront government ministers. A big campaign is mounted, with banners on every council dust-cart: Fight rate-capping! Rate-capping hurts!

But come the spring, the figures subtly change. The balances are suddenly larger than could ever have been anticipated, a most fortuitous underspend appears in the accounts, inflation can be calculated in a different way, windfalls that have miraculously survived the winter appear from under the snow. All sorts of manoeuvres known as "financing mechanisms" are introduced which shift sums of money from one column to another. And hey presto! The same amount of spending can somehow be covered by a lower income. No cuts in jobs and services! A victory for the campaign of resistance!

The finance officers who perform these yearly miracles are a remarkable new breed possessing two characteristics seldom encountered in combination: they are committed public servants and financial manipulators of the highest order.

In the game of outwitting the enemy they are always one step ahead. A story is circulating about a conversation between one borough finance officer and the District Auditor. "Two years ago your budget was a fudge," said the District Auditor. "Last year it was an outrageous fudge. There's no way you can do it again this year." "Oh yes I can," said the finance officer, and he has.

Having watched all this going on for two years I have developed

great respect for the officers' skills and a feeling of having lost contact with reality. What actually is going on? I would be ashamed to ask were it not for the fact that practically everybody else is in the same predicament. DoE officials, local government journalists, the academic experts — all are confused. Will all these councils come down to earth with a bump and run out of money after the May elections? Are the budgets really cosmetically disguised deficit budgets? Or have the magicians in fact discovered *aurum potabile*?

On the assumption, however, that there are no supernatural agencies at work, it is probably safe to make two predictions. The first is that a day of reckoning will come and, to be fair, the finance officers themselves have been sounding warnings. The creative accountancy that enables present jobs and services to survive untouched depends more and more on mortgaging the future, as capital is converted to revenue, assets are sold off and ingenious borrowing and leasing arrangements are embarked upon. It is said that at least one London borough will be unable to pay its debts in three years' time. Its councillors hope that a future Labour government will indemnify it.

The other prediction is that the public comprehension of what is going on will be so totally eroded as to make local democracy meaningless. Already elected members themselves don't understand it. The Labour leaders rely on their officers to pull rabbits out of the hat, and their backbenchers are kept happy if, on the left, they can go on chanting "No cuts in jobs and services" and, at the more moderate end, they have a council's opinion telling them it is all legal. On the opposition benches there is growing suspicion as calculations change from one month to the next.

As for the public outside, half of them think the cuts have already happened. I have been struck recently, talking to people on council estates, at the growing number talking fearfully about having to find the money to send their children to private schools. Some mention the teachers' dispute, but even more the "huge classes — the teachers just can't cope any more..." And this in an education authority where the pupil-teacher ratio is the lowest in the country and better than it has ever been!

But nothing these days seems to produce the intended result. The Campaign against the Cuts undermines confidence in the public sector. The rate-capping legislation encourages extreme profligacy. The municipal socialists turn into the greatest asset-strippers of all time. It is a crazy world, where mere mortals look to those with special powers like our financial wizards to lead them blindfold out of the maze.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

## Robert Fisk reports on another casualty of the Beirut kidnappings



Anderson: thought he had nothing to fear

Collect: a plea for jailed Palestinians

Rochet: one of the latest to disappear

Kaufmann: held by Islamic Jihad

Seurat: 'executed' by his captors

### The truth held to ransom

Beirut

A year ago this weekend, Terry Anderson, the Beirut bureau chief of the Associated Press news agency, went to play tennis with his friend Don Mell on the hard court just behind his home on the Beirut seashore.

Parking outside Mell's house afterwards, Anderson, still in his tennis clothes, was dragged from his car by armed men, his spectacles falling into the road as he was pushed into the back seat of a green Mercedes whose rear window was obscured by a thick curtain. He has been a prisoner ever since, allowed to write only briefly to the outside world last November. In the letter home, he spoke emotionally of how he looked forward to a family reunion on his release — "Dad, Peg, Bruce, Jack and Judy — all the grandkids we could gather. Such joy that would be."

But Terry Anderson's father Glenn, a retired truck driver, died of cancer last month. So far as anyone knows, Terry still thinks that the plucky old man who visited him in Beirut in the summer of 1983 is still alive.

Indeed, time seems to have stood still since that moment, not long after 8 o'clock on March 16 last year, when Anderson disappeared. For his kidnapping changed the lives of his friends and relatives, persuaded dozens of western journalists to abandon their homes in Lebanon and, ultimately, stifled the free flow of news from one of the world's most confused and tragic conflicts.

Those who believed that Anderson's abduction was unique, a rare assault on the community of foreign journalists in Lebanon, were to be cruelly disillusioned. The portents had been around for a long time. Jeremy Levin, bureau chief of the American Cable News Network, had been kidnapped in March 1984 but turned up in Basle a year later and described how he had escaped from his

captors after spending months chained to a radiator in solitary confinement. Jonathan Wright, a Reuters correspondent in Beirut, had spent a grim two weeks in August 1984 in the hands of gunmen from whom he escaped by crawling through a chimney.

But it was Anderson's disappearance which started the shock waves. A tough, cheerful, overweight man who had shown great courage covering Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, he was one of those people who seemed somehow invincible. Every morning, unaccompanied, he cheerfully walked his dog along the Beirut seashore. He had no reason to be frightened because he had made no enemies in Lebanon. If Terry Anderson could be abducted, then no one was safe.

Indeed, only nine days later, Alec Collect, a British freelance writer working with the United Nations, was taken from his car by gunmen at Khaldé just south of Beirut. He has been seen only twice since then, on a grainy video film appealing for his life and asking for the release of Palestinian prisoners imprisoned in Britain. Two months afterwards, Jean-Paul Kaufmann, a French journalist working for *L'Evenement du Jeudi*, was kidnapped on the airport road in Beirut. His colleague, a researcher named Michel Seurat, was taken with him; it was Seurat whose "execution" was announced by his Lebanese kidnappers last week.

In June, 1985, Lebanese gunmen kidnapped Alfred Yagoub-zadeh, an Iranian photographer living in France who works for the French Sipa news agency. He was released after 50 days of captivity.

But two weeks ago an entire four-man French film crew was abducted in the Shia Muslim suburbs of south Beirut after filming a rally of militant Hezbollah (Party of God) members. Like Anderson's abduction, the kidnappings were all the more frightening since the television reporter, Philippe Rochet, is an old Beirut hand, a fluent Arabic speaker who, besides being an excellent journalist, has many good friends among the tiny press corps still left in Lebanon.

The groups responsible for all these abductions are not difficult to identify. The pro-Islamic Islamic Jihad movement, which has strong links with the Iraqi opposition Daawa party, claims to hold Anderson and Kaufmann, and it was responsible for Levin's abduction. It is demanding the release of 17 Iraqis and Lebanese imprisoned in Kuwait for bombing the French and US embassies there in 1983.

The extremist Palestinian Abu Nidal faction is holding Collect (probably in Sidon) and was almost certainly responsible for Wright's abduction. Yagoub-zadeh's captors made no demands but they were members of the Hezbollah — perhaps the same men who have been holding the French film crew; Islamic Jihad has denied being involved.

For journalists, and for everyone around the world who wants to read and hear the truth about Lebanon, the real significance of these abductions is that the foreign press here is now in greater danger than ever. Because they are unarmed, journalists are the softest targets. But they are also the only neutral witnesses to a conflict in

which truth is ever more difficult to discover. Today only 17 western journalists are permanently based in Beirut compared with more than 70 two years ago.

The effects have been obvious. First-hand reporting of the war in Lebanon — especially the effects on the victims — has become largely confined to a few European newspapers; every American correspondent has left. There are few reporters left to travel to the Bekaa valley to report on what the Syrian army of occupation is doing; there are equally few available to travel to southern Lebanon to report on the dangerous new guerrilla war there and on Israel's increasingly bloody incursions from its occupation zone.

Ironically, the Israelis have been trying to keep western journalists in Beirut from witnessing their occupation for the past 18 months. Lebanese and Palestinian gunmen have now almost achieved what the Israelis could never have hoped for: much of the war in southern Lebanon is now reported only from Jerusalem, where correspondents are in no danger of being kidnapped.

Against the human disasters that occur in Lebanon every day, the plight of journalists may not seem to matter greatly. Up to 100,000 Lebanese may have died in the fighting of the past 11 years; thousands of Lebanese have been kidnapped and subsequently murdered. Forty-seven foreigners have been abducted in the past 27 months. Twenty-six have been released; five have been reported killed.

Most of the reporters who have died were chance victims of a war they were trying to record. But the kidnappings have added a new dimension to the business of reporting. For the sad anniversary of Anderson's kidnapping illuminates a tragic fact: that fewer people will hear the truth about Lebanon because there are ever fewer journalists to report it.

## moreover... Miles Kingston

### See the World, miss the Cup

The whole of June will be filled with World Cup fever as the best teams in the world fight it out in Mexico, and play football as well as of course. It will be on the TV and radio night and day, in the news, in the newspapers — everywhere. And if England do well, it will be even worse. So for all those of you who dread the prospect of a football-filled June, and just want to get away from it all, Moreover Travel has dreamed up some holiday packages just for you. They are all guaranteed World Cup-free. No other travel firm can promise that.

A Month in the Contrasts: How would you like to defend democracy for four exciting weeks in the foot hills of Nicaragua? You wouldn't like to defend democracy? Well, how would you like a bit of looting and village-burning, which is much the same thing? Get away from it all in this wild but beautiful country, far from the nearest TV set and sports magazine. And the beauty of it is — we pay you to go! Yes, Ronald Reagan himself is laying on millions of dollars for you to be there. Why? Well, apparently he thinks that Nicaragua is going to invade the USA, and... well, it's very complicated.

A Welsh Painting Holiday: Did you know that Wales badly needs painting? Yes, most of the houses are peeling and many haven't been painted at all; this is a result of the rich musical talent of the Welsh, which did not leave room for any visual sense at all. We urgently need volunteers who would like an open-air holiday, lots of activity, far from the big city. And here's the bonus: of all the UK countries, Wales was the only one to be knocked out of the World Cup (by Scotland, as usual), so they won't be very interested in what's going on in Mexico and wouldn't talk about it even if you begged them.

Grand Tour Cruise (No Ports of Call): One of the nice things about a cruise is calling at a foreign port and being approached by a friendly native with something to sell — leatherware, perhaps, or his sister. But what if he comes up to you and says: "Hey, did you hear that Brazil beat Italy in the semi-finals?" Well, there's no danger of that on our special cruise, which

calls nowhere, just sails round the Med for a month. It will be like a long, wonderful party, at which nobody present is interested in football.

The Old Spaghetti Road: Everyone knows about the Silk Road, the old trading route between China and the West. But have you heard about the Old Spaghetti Road? Legend has it that noodles from China were the basis for modern Italian pasta. We trace the ancient track across Iraq and Iran until it peters out near Afghanistan. That's right, peters out! Because there is no truth in the old legend about noodles from China. But by the time you find that out, the World Cup will be over.

The Ascent of K59a: Did you know that K59a is the lowest unclimbed peak in the Himalayas? Yes, that's right, the lowest. At only 11,000 feet, it still has not been climbed by any known expedition, not because it is difficult but because it is so boring. It is surrounded by nine other peaks, all identical and so featureless that none of them has been climbed either. The native name for K59a is "Mountain which is so dreary that not even an Englishman will climb it," and they don't come drearier than that. It will take about a month to get up and down. But boring though it may be, it beats watching Poland and Scotland kick each other's ankles.

Four Weeks Anywhere in the United States: The country directly across the border from Mexico is probably the safest place to be in June, because the Americans have absolutely no interest in soccer. There was a short-lived soccer boom the other year, but it didn't last. The only games which are ever popular in America have to feature very short bursts of activity separated by long periods of rest; this is essential to put them on TV, where they need most of the time for commercials, sponsors, interviews with celebrities, slow motion reruns and so on. Soccer flows on for long periods, and Americans cannot understand why it doesn't stop to make way for a beer ad. So a month, anywhere in the States, will see you safe. But not in Canada. Canada has qualified for the World Cup.





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## A POLITICAL TEST

Mr Nigel Lawson's third Budget tomorrow has been billed as a modest affair: a tinkering with taxes in straitened circumstances. The "considered and justified" tax reductions promised, if not quantified, only four months ago have been scaled down. Falling oil revenues have reduced them to something even more modest.

Yet this Budget is strategically of great importance to the Government. It is, for a start, the occasion on which Mr Nigel Lawson must remake his somewhat uncertain reputation as Chancellor. His first Budget excited hopes of radical tax reform, which were defeated by a mixture of political pressures and squeezed finances. His second Budget was, in considerable part, the admission of that defeat. In his third, mid-term Budget he has to re-establish a sense of direction.

Tomorrow's budget has to be a practical exposition of the Chancellor's economic strategy. This strategy, or philosophy, boils down to stability in the large numbers, designed to vanquish inflation and foster growth; combined with "supply-side" changes designed to stimulate industry's response to the changed economic climate.

"Popular capitalism", the involvement of more people in the fortunes of business, is only one weapon in the micro-economic armoury of goods to industry on which Mr Lawson must draw tomorrow. These stimuli are, as the Chancellor himself is fond of pointing out, mostly slow-acting. This, then, is the last Budget in which Mr Lawson can hope to foster change that will yield results before a 1988 election. For a Chancellor who is leading us proudly into the sixth

successive year of economic growth, but has still failed to turn the tide of unemployment, it is a moment of some importance.

There is a further sense in which Mr Lawson is on trial. His management of those large numbers - for public spending or monetary growth - has been questioned by the financial markets more than once during his time as Chancellor. His reputation for effective management fell to a low level with last year's sterling crisis.

This year, he has been tested in the fierce heat of turbulent oil and currency markets, and at first his response seemed uncertain. But he has weathered the latest fall in the oil price, to levels only half those ruling a few months ago, with only one rise in interest rates. The markets now confidently expect that rise to be reversed.

Lower interest rates, together with the prospect of still lower inflation, have been induced largely by changes in the world outside. But the speed of the fall in oil prices imposed a severe test on the Chancellor; it is to his credit that his positive longer-term benefits have not been overshadowed by short-term difficulties. The pound is volatile, but not in a state of collapse. Its rate against the dollar yo-yos around the figures that prevailed last autumn; its fall against European currencies has bred new hope of exporting success in industry.

From the confusion of signals that come out of the latest surge in share prices, it is fair to extract at least a temporary vote of confidence. Mr Lawson's third Budget must consolidate this gain in his reputation. One essential is obvious: caution in public borrowing, keeping close to his original target for 1986-87, making only minor adjust-

ment for falling oil revenues. He faces, however, a harder task with his monetary framework.

Forecasting the money numbers is still too uncertain a business for the Chancellor's new targets to be greeted with much confidence. Mr Lawson is seeking to demonstrate dogged financial rectitude by sticking with his original broad definition of money - sterling M3 - and using the painful weapon of high interest rates to control it, rather than the soft option of selling an unnecessary amount of government debt. But the past year's sterling M3 target was casually abandoned when it became inconvenient; even if the new limit is set at more realistic heights, there will be plenty in the City who will doubt Mr Lawson's commitment to it.

It has become obvious that Mr Lawson could benefit from a further boost in confidence if there were now to be a smooth entry to the European Monetary System. The financial markets have demonstrated their desire for a set of targets which depend not just on the whim of the Chancellor but on international commitments, which are so much harder to break. Without them, confidence will depend heavily on Mr Lawson's reputation.

That, of course, is not merely a personal matter. The Government's struggle to regain national confidence after the recent succession of self-induced disasters also hangs heavily on a successful Budget. On the economic front, the Government's flank is guarded by a very new Trade and Industry Secretary, with a full agenda and a fearful inheritance. Mr Lawson, now with many years of Treasury experience behind him, has to take the lead. Tomorrow is his greatest political test.

## AID FOR THE CONTRAS

The Washington season for argument about aid to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua has come around again. On Wednesday Congress votes on whether to extend a sum of \$100 million to the Contras, \$70 million of it in military assistance.

Since the US first sent help to the Contras more than four years ago, the rebellion has had an effect. It has helped reduce the Nicaraguan economy to its present straits, and forced the Sandinista Government to spend half its budget on defence. It has led to conscription, the single most unpopular measure introduced by the Sandinistas. It also forced the elections of November 1984, which were motivated more by the government's need for international support than by any genuinely pluralist convictions.

Contra "leverage" and relentless diplomatic pressure from the United States have put the regime on the defensive. The Sandinistas no longer dream in public of acting as the vanguard of a Central American revolution. And they have changed their

policy towards the Miskito Indian regions of the Atlantic Coast. Moreover, although the regime remains pro-Soviet and there are still several thousand Cuban and Eastern Bloc advisers in Nicaragua, the country is not yet a totalitarian satellite. There is still a sizeable private sector in the economy, a vocal, if censored, opposition, and much moral authority has, Polish fashion, passed into the hands of the more conservative elements of the Catholic Church.

The United States has succeeded in unmasking Sandinismo's alignment with Cuba and the Soviet Union, also its desire to perpetuate itself in power. All this has undoubtedly reduced its appeal in the region to its present negligible level. Now the Reagan Administration is repeating the arguments of Dr Kissinger's bi-partisan Central American report that without power, diplomacy has no leverage, and asking Congress to authorise further help.

Behind the President's thinking may be the calculation that increased aid to the Contras will produce a successful counter-revolution.

If so, it is probably misguided. The mechanisms of leverage are not so simple. The Contras themselves are divided, and likely to remain so. Much of their leadership has no democratic appeal and holds out no prospects of a democratic future. They have no urban support, and although at around 20,000 they are the largest guerrilla group in Central America, they are by no means the most effective. Their numbers are swollen by those seeking to avoid conscription - not the best military motive - and much of the money sent to them in the past is rumoured never to have got through. Washington's support for the Contras also creates problems for the US elsewhere in Central and Latin America, where it arouses deep suspicion.

For all that, the blunt instrument of the Contras has contained the Nicaraguan revolution and to some extent altered its direction. Congress need not approve the full \$100 million on Wednesday. There are conditions it may want to attach to any further aid. But it should certainly not vote to abandon them.

laissez-faire. The British royal arms continued to quarter those of France until 1801, reflecting the 14th-century claim to that throne. On that test we should leave Ireland there for another three centuries. None the less, Mr Blake is surely right that Wales and Cornwall should be represented in the royal arms.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH PESKETT,  
1 Avenue Road,  
Winchester,  
Hampshire.

### Education vouchers

From Professor Alan Day  
Sir, Your argument (leading article, March 4) that choice of education through vouchers is a "peripheral issue of mechanisms of middle class parents' choice of school" appears to be based on the view that it is inappropriate or unimportant for working class parents to choose their children's schools.

The case of choice applies irrespective of class. Indeed, it is arguably more important for the working class, who do not have the middle class option of scrimping and saving in order to buy private education.

Nor is the case for vouchers upset by your view that parents are not the sole consumers of education and are not a full proxy for employers and others who receive the products of schools. Parents who are free to choose which schools their children attend can be expected to try to give them the best possible life chance. All other things being equal, this implies that the parents will try to

maximize their children's potential earning power. By doing so, they would provide employers with the skilled and adaptable labour force they require.

Too many professional educationalists have developed such a degree of confidence in the correctness of their own judgments on society, which they then succeed in imposing on others, that they then come to lose sight of an understanding of individual liberty.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN DAY,  
Chart Place,  
Chart Sutton, Maidstone, Kent.

### Finding a fake

From Mr Christopher Edwards  
Sir, One may sympathise with Mr Chaine (March 12) in his distaste for the sudden changes in opinion which make paintings "worth" less or more, depending on which scholar's view prevails. Nevertheless, he should remember that pictures are not only objects for aesthetic appreciation - they are also historical evidence.

Each painting by an artist forms part of the scholar's view of his work, and if it can be shown that one painting previously assigned to his hand was not painted by him, our appreciation of all his other work must be altered, however slightly. Considerations of how much the painting is restored or how much painted by assistants may change the force of this point, but do not undermine it altogether. Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER EDWARDS,  
17 Pall Mall, SW1.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Implication of wider role for MSC

From Mr W. J. Cotterell  
Sir, As a recently retired principal of a further education college, it is not surprising that I should agree with the assertion in yesterday's leader (March 4) that further education is arguably the most important sector of educational provision. However, I regard your adulation of the Manpower Services Commission and the implication that the commission should have an even greater role in this sector as a recipe for disaster.

The expansion of training under the youth training schemes has certainly been very beneficial, but given the vast sums allocated for the project, the MSC could hardly have failed to provide something worthwhile. None the less, there are many who believe that results at least as good could have been achieved for less, through the existing channels of the colleges and careers service or the disbanding of training boards without the huge bureaucracy set up by the MSC. It is the super "quango" of them all.

Undoubtedly, new approaches to further education are needed, but they must be built on firm foundations. The great weakness of the MSC is simply lack of experience, coupled with a tendency to take as narrow a "training" approach as the DES traditionally has an "educational" one. Yet further education representation is minimal on all the important committees of the MSC.

It is certainly high time for the artificial division between education and training to be removed; but if a new administration covering both is to be set up it must not only be free from the shackles of conventional educational traditions, but equally must also, at all costs, avoid being subservient to the MSC. Yours faithfully,  
W. JOHN COTTERELL,  
8 Hillgrove Crescent,  
Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

### Moves to Rome

From the General Secretary of the Intercontinental Church Society  
Sir, Edward Yarnold's most helpful article about Anglican/Roman Catholic discussions (March 8) focuses on the one key point that I and many other Anglican Evangelicals have sought an answer for many years. Father Yarnold is clear in his belief that unity with the Roman Catholic Church does not mean "absorption" by it.

This is a point that, to the best of my knowledge, has never been conceded by the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church. The positive way in which this would mean something is by the recognition of Anglican orders by the Roman Catholic Church.

Ten years ago, when I was Director of the Church Society, we held two most worthwhile conferences at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, between Roman Catholics and Anglican Evangelicals (to which Fr Yarnold was a contributor). It seems to me that in this country we are no further advanced at this level of understanding than we

more than many years ago because there has been too much talk about the final "marriage" (to some a "shotgun marriage") rather than a gradual courtship - so that in Fr Yarnold's words, "they come progressively to understand and trust one another".

I find in my present work among Anglican Churches overseas that in many parts of Europe and North Africa there is a greater sense of "walking out together" with the Roman Catholic Church than there is in England. This seems to stem from a real sense of mutual concern to work together in mission and evangelism among those who have no faith - or who have lost what they once had.

Perhaps we should stop talking about "marriage" and do as Fr Yarnold suggests, try to understand and trust each other's position. We may then be surprised by the Holy Spirit and the path ahead. Yours faithfully,  
DON IRVING,  
General Secretary,  
Intercontinental Church Society,  
175 Tower Bridge Road, SE1.  
March 10.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY HOLLAND,  
Director,  
Manpower Services Commission,  
Moorfoot,  
Sheffield,  
March 7.

### Lost for words

From Professor Michael J. French  
Sir, Mr Martin Blockside (March 5) takes to task six professors of engineering who wrote about standards of English among their students. He says that English language O-level examinations test "the ability to use sophisticated and precise language".

Mr Blockside suggests that the verbal skills of students specialising in mathematics or science from the age of 16 must be expected to atrophy, but surely if the foundations had been properly laid that would not be so. Many mathematical and scientific texts are better written than school English textbooks, and these subjects lead to clear thinking, without which clear writing is impossible.

He further suggests that university departments make it "widely known that they would welcome students who had taken, along with their mathematics and sci-

ence, courses in history, literature and languages at advanced level". If he will read the advice of the Standing Conference on University Entrance, surely the prime source on this subject, he will see that in the case of engineering this should already be widely known. We certainly welcome candidates so prepared, as I imagine do the six professors.

How often do we see science and mathematics advocated for future historians, etc? But it is for breadth generally that engineers value these subjects, not for the precision of language or thought they teach. For the former purpose I advocate reading *The Times*, notwithstanding, Sir, your most deplorable and uncharacteristic sloppiness in using the word "engineer".

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL J. FRENCH,  
University of Lancaster,  
Department of Engineering,  
Bailrigg,  
Lancaster.

### Fuel profits

From Mr David Fisher  
Sir, In the warmth of the coming summer you will probably report windfall (or snowfall) profits made by the gas and electricity boards, whose advertising tells us how well they have served us during the exceptionally cold winter. We might then consider the notion that this bonus revenue could have been applied to the relief of elderly and disabled consumers of energy, for whom the effects of the winter were equal and opposite.

A fixed (high) percentage discount on the relevant quarterly bills for these groups would be

more equitable, more humane and more certain of achieving the desired purpose than tardy and begrudged public welfare.

Moreover, as the public utilities know from day to day exactly by what amount overall consumption exceeds the seasonal average and can program their billing computers accordingly - there should be no difficulty in calculating a discount rate proportional to the severity of the weather.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID FISHER,  
153 Freshfield Road,  
Brighton,  
Sussex.

### Student benefits

From the Secretary of State for Social Services

Sir, Last Saturday's (March 8) "Family Money" article seriously misrepresented the Government's proposals for changing the entitlement of students to social security benefits. I would be grateful if you would allow me to correct the most serious errors.

First, the article says that students will no longer be able to claim housing benefit and supplementary benefit during vacations. This is untrue. The proposals would remove entitlement to supplementary benefit and unemployment benefit in the short vacations only - Christmas and Easter - not the main long vacation.

The student grant already allows for living costs during these short vacations. It costs the DHSS some £2 million to pay out about £4 million worth of these benefits for these periods.

Second, it was said that details of the housing benefit changes were unavailable. This is untrue. They were set out in a written parliamentary answer on December 18, 1985. In Press releases on January 7, 1986, issued by my department and by the Social Security Advisory Committee, in a consultation paper issued by the Social Security Advisory Committee to anyone interested in seeing and commenting on the Government's proposals.

Third, and most important, the article said "All students will lose all benefits by academic year

### Damages threat to patient care

From Mr Kevin de Haan  
Sir, In order to meet the record settlement in the case of Caroline Turville (report, March 11), the Wandsworth Health Authority will inevitably be obliged to divert precious resources away from the provision of patient care in its area.

In the United States of America the high incidence of medical malpractice suits, frequently resulting in massive awards of damages against doctors and hospitals, has threatened the very existence of health care facilities in some areas and put the lives of patients at risk.

The response of many state legislatures to this crisis in the health care industry has been to introduce statutory arbitration and mediation schemes as a prerequisite to litigation before the ordinary courts in malpractice cases.

These schemes operate to very strict time limits and are designed to encourage the early settlement of valid claims whilst eliminating those without merit. As well as effecting a significant reduction in the number of cases going to trial, the schemes have resulted in lower costs and greater expedition if cases do proceed through the courts.

In an effort to avert a crisis in the provision of health care facilities in this country, should not serious consideration be given to the introduction of similar schemes here? Yours sincerely,  
KEVIN DE HAAN,  
Queen Elizabeth Building,  
Temple, EC4,  
March 11.

### Trial by jury

From Mr Clifford Jeans  
Sir, I see that after a recent trial at the Old Bailey (report, March 12) some jurors burst into tears, when having acquitted a defendant of murder they were told that he had previous convictions. I would have thought that it was very easy to know whether a defendant had a murky past, although the jury is not supposed to take this into consideration in their deliberations.

It is my experience, having sat on several juries, that if the defendant has a clean past record the defending counsel will make a big thing of this, and even if the defendant has pleaded guilty, counsel will say that the present position of the defendant is due to a temporary lapse of honesty. If, however, the defendant has a bad record, defending counsel keeps very quiet on this point.

My experience resulted in only a small sample, but it seemed to work every time. Yours faithfully,  
CLIFFORD JEANS,  
20 Parkfield Road,  
Ickenham,  
Uxbridge,  
Middlesex.

### Danger to birds

From Dr Margaret Weldhen  
Sir, Readers who are bird lovers should beware of the danger of putting out balls made of fat and nuts which are encased in rather fine nylon mesh.

These may turn out to be potential death traps for birds like this which hang on to the nylon bags with their claws. As the bag begins to sag when the food is half eaten the birds can get their claws trapped in the fine mesh.

I had the shock of finding a blue-tit hanging by one leg. It had died, perhaps after hours of frantic struggling to free its claw, which had become so entangled that I had to cut out the body while its frantic mate looked on.

When buying a holder for nuts and fat we should be sure to choose one which is not going to end up by being a death trap for the birds. Good old-fashioned string would be better than nylon mesh.

Yours sincerely,  
MARGARET WELDHEN,  
Upper Spilshy,  
Daisy Mount,  
Otery St Mary, Devon.

### Meaningful terms

From Mr D. B. Jenkin  
Sir, In his letter (March 10), the MP for York stated that "almost 48 per cent of travel agents in the USA have experienced visitor cancellations". I have seen many unusual visitors from overseas, but never a postmarked American.

Yours faithfully,  
D. B. JENKIN,  
30 Hare Hill Close,  
Pyrford,  
Surrey,  
March 10.

## ON THIS DAY

MARCH 17 1863

"On This Day" returns to the American Civil War, not to the bottle zones but behind the lines - to the evil effects always present in the wake of war. Our Correspondent was Charles Mackay.

## THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)  
WASHINGTON, FEB. 28.

New York exhibits no outward signs of the war and desolation that afflict the land. Washington, on the contrary, betrays them at every turn. The long straggling avenues, planned in a spirit of magnificence, but so meanly executed, swarm with soldiers, camp followers, forage wagons, ambulances, and all the aids, instruments, and paraphernalia of strife. Thousands of young men in grey-blue uniforms, swagger about the streets or lounge at the doors of the hotels, with the fresh jauntiness of the inexperienced, but so meanly executed, swarm with soldiers, camp followers, forage wagons, ambulances, and all the aids, instruments, and paraphernalia of strife. Thousands of young men in grey-blue uniforms, swagger about the streets or lounge at the doors of the hotels, with the fresh jauntiness of the inexperienced, but so meanly executed, swarm with soldiers, camp followers, forage wagons, ambulances, and all the aids, instruments, and paraphernalia of strife. 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## THE ARTS

Television  
The lack of trust

Like a hyena, *People Do the Funniest Things* (ITV) is a programme that picks through other men's destinies for candid-camera clips and funny out-takes. It'll be *Right on the Night* and *Clive James on Television* the same thing — except that those programmes have as hosts Denise Norden and Clive James. *People Do the Funniest Things* has Jeremy Beadle. "Don't you trust me?", the bearded Beadle asks his studio audience. With one voice they answer "not", whereupon he bursts into grating hysterical laughter, like a hyena.

The clips he introduced were mainly bought in, uncredited, from American television and included for no apparent reason — save that it might have been part of a package — some footage of Hollywood stars as children. Admittedly in between the laughter and Eddie Murphy at the age of five there were some very amusing sequences — notably three cleaning ladies singing "I used to be a teenager in love".

*Hot Metal* (ITV) continued to bed-warm for *Spiriting Image* in as tastelessly fine form, making Fleet Street's proprietors and editors look by contrast like Benedictine monks. When BL pull out of giving away a free Metro, poor Harry Stringer — the scholarly former editor of *The Daily Crucible* — is forced on television to offer free human kidneys. Played with immaculate glumness by Geoffrey Palmer, Stringer next finds himself promoting a prize of sexplores. The first six childless couples who write in with proof of sterility can take home a toddler. Robert Hardy, who in the role of Twigg's Rathbone perhaps confuses loneliness with manipulation, is also impressive in his first comedy series, playing not only the parts of proprietor and editor but the independent directors as well.

Given the quality of the acting and script, it is a pity that in patches the series has not so much gone over the top in taking the lid off Fleet Street but through the bottom. A vicar who stalks himself through the heart and a journalist who phones through his copy beside a woman going into labour are two examples of superfluous brutality.

*The Collectors* (BBC1), dramatising the on- and off-duty lives of Customs and Excise officials, was as lame as ever. The most vivid image was an ice-cream van on cruise for samples of untaxed oil to the tune of music more appropriate to *Bergerac*.

Nicholas Shakespeare

Michael Clark  
Theatre Royal, Bath

Coppelia  
Apollo, Oxford

Michael Clark's new work for London Festival Ballet, premiered at the Theatre Royal, Bath, is fun. Its subject is a light-hearted look at ballet's obsession with birds. Karen Gee as "a young girl approaching swanhood" is the recipient of the title's injunction to *Drop your pearls and hog it, girl*, advice she seems to accept in the flip, offhand finale.

Her solo to Saint-Saens's "Swan" (music that Clark has used before) is exceptionally fluent and unexpected with its swimming allusions and backward rolls; elsewhere, she has more showy dancing including a sparkling series of *brises* before her artistic deflection. Other music comprises bits of *Swan Lake*, a choral rendering of "Swan" by the rest of the cast, a video recording, *Wings*, by Clark's house composers. The Fall, and some supposed by Balinese music which probably had an avian connection that escaped me.

Or possibly not: before the television set for the video sequence is hauled up into the

Opera in London and New York  
Fantasy lacking in true magic

Parsifal  
Coliseum

The terrible tragedy at the heart of Wagner's last opera is that of a work which knows it cannot fulfil itself, and Joachim Herz in his new production for the English National Opera is right to identify one of the main reasons: as the composer's presence himself in the drama in the guise of Amfortas. This was the character with whom he felt overwhelmed sympathy. *Parsifal* was to be his redemption of himself just as Amfortas. But no man can compose his own salvation, as Wagner surely becomes painfully aware as he nears his finale. And, even if *Parsifal* had worked as a myth of redemption, it would still have contained the colossal paradox of saving Wagner's soul while at the same time enhancing his ego by its success as a work of art. On his own terms, he left himself with no escape, and it may be accounted to his moral credit that he faced the fact. *Parsifal* proceeds from old Klingsohr's staring unflinchingly into a mirror that was far from magical.

If Mr Herz offers a plausible diagnosis of the opera, however, he does so with little subtlety, though it is unfair to give a definitive judgement on the production as yet, since on Saturday night it was not running at all smoothly, and also since, as already reported here, the title role was taken over at very short notice by Siegfried Jerusalem. He did a splendid job in entering a new production cold, and sang magnificently, particu-

larly in the third act; it even seemed appropriate that this Parsifal should be singing his own language, with everyone else on stage too polite or too mystified to mention the fact. Nevertheless, the production had evidently been shaken by recent trauma.

But, even allowing for that, to clothe Amfortas in a Wagnerian dressing-gown trivializes the point, just as it trivializes the moribund authority of Titurel to have him appearing, if tottering, on stage in cope and dalmatic; of course these two represent on one level the exhausted old church and the tainted new, Rome and Bayreuth, but the suggestion can be made less explicitly. Nor is this a lone example of heavy-handedness. The stuffed swan flatly plopping to the ground raised an inevitable laugh; equally disappointing was the appearance of the flower-maidens in quite unconvincing close-fitting caps, or the knights parading as a schoolboy chorus, or Kundry's call on Parsifal from a position where she was invisible, or Klingsohr's treasuring on a pink hula-hoop with a mirror that obscured his singing, or the destruction of his domain that could be predicted a full hour ahead (the spear episode I take to have been a makeshift in the absence of the scheduled Parsifal), or the lowered curtain for the final transformation, or the unnecessarily complicated grill machine. In short, Mr Herz bungled every intervention of the fantastic.

The blame must be shared by his designer Wolf Munnzer, whose first-act forest is an ugly mess of leaf-green

announced that he was suffering from tracheitis but had agreed to continue. From then on it was hit or — mostly — miss, with a total lapse into boresness for the final scene.

It was not alone a matter of the voice. What was needed to offset Ewing's bizarre and compelling *Carmen* was another commanding stage presence. At his strongest, Lima's José seemed merely pouty and petulant, hardly an adequate foil for his relentless tormentor. This weakness may have stemmed from Lima's indisposition, but what allowance can be made for Michael Devlin's Escamillo, which was utterly ineffectual both vocally (no solidity and no bottom) and dramatically? Is this the best the Met can muster for a major role in a new production?

Thus, surrounded by non-entities, Ewing's intense and highly coloured *Carmen* seemed a creature from another planet. In a reading virtually devoid of straightforward vocalization Ewing bent pitch and shaded tone, skewed vowels, nudged and dragged tempi, warbled with quick vibrato and drowned with none. She also sought dynamic ex-

## Dance

flies, one gets a snatch of whatever programme happens to be showing, and that chance element is unlikely often to be as fortuitously apt as it was at the premiere, when we caught a documentary about a man coming out of prison (more "bird", you see), and heard a voice ask "Would Karen like a cup of tea?" while Miss Gee was dancing.

Designs by Bodymap and Charles Atlas make the work look very handsome, especially the white flamenco dresses and enormous wings for the two prettiest, most gifted young dancers in the company, ironically cast as two old swans. They get to open cans of beer (Swan Lager, of course) once the only man in the cast, Craig Randolph, as a monstrously fat but nimble pig, has been given his come-uppance. Premiered with this *Variations for Four*, a showpiece for men which was created for a Festival Ballet gala in 1957. Nowadays the high rhetorical style of the opening parade looks old-fashioned, but the solos give generous opportunity for bravura display, even if today's dancers have to struggle a little with the wide variety of virtuosic steps tailor-made for the exceptionally gifted original cast.

Raymond Smith manages best so far, his dancing both articulate and smooth. Patrick

Armand shows cool control and elegance as well as speed, and Craig Randolph bounds energetically through some bouncy and unusual leaps. Darryl Norton shows neat promise which needs a little more forcefulness to do himself justice. Marguerite Keogh's music, like the tinkling banalities to which dancers work in class, sounds much better in this piano version than in its former orchestrated inflation.

By splinting its forces between two cities, Festival Ballet gave no fewer than 16 performances last week. Quantity was met by quality, and at the Apollo Theatre, Oxford, where the larger contingent gave *Coppelia*, Nureyev was imported as guest for two nights.

He played up the comedy with neat timing, vivid facial expression and bubbling good humour. His wit and liveliness fit well into Festival Ballet's production, and it was a joy to see the folksy elements of the choreography made so much of. Under his benign influence, Lucia Truglia sparkled more brightly than ever as Swanilda, and Alexander Grant's wonderfully poetic Dr Coppélius, both funny and sad, complemented them both.

John Percival



Gwynne Howell's Gurnemanz, refreshingly human, touchingly vulnerable

pping. With the ultra-violet lights turned off, this becomes the contents of a giant ashtray for the third act. The flower-maidens operate from within a bowl of pink rags, and return at the end as vestal virgins (or perhaps snawdopes), though the feminist point would be stronger if the music were not by this stage thoroughly unconvinced by itself.

Sir Reginald Goodall, however, sounds convinced, indeed possessed, by every bar: he conducts a performance that is both searing and grandiloquent, and that does more

than justify a visit to this production. Also excellent is Gwynne Howell's refreshingly human Gurnemanz, a young man of limited imagination but touching vulnerability in the first act, and still green as the aged hermit. Neil Howlett as Amfortas sings with a passionate sense of great strength in travail, and Anne Evans as Kundry has a candour and fragility that worked rather well in her dealings with Parsifal. Rodney Macann has been encouraged to play Klingsohr too much as the demon king.

Paul Griffiths

James R. Oestreich

## Theatre . . . and an altogether different angle on the immortal gypsy



La Verne E. Williams: the dark, fateful lower notes that belong to Carmen as to no other character

Rock  
The Cramps  
Hammersmith  
Odeon

It may come as some surprise that the Cramps, a paradigm of a cult band, are able to fill the Odeon for three consecutive nights, but then certain cults, like some old movies, just run and run.

It is ten years since the ghoulish singer Lux Interior and his guitar-playing colleague Ivy Rorschach formed the group in New York, and eight years since they first visited Britain as part of Miles Copeland's expanding empire of acts. Since then they have flourished in the independent chart, playing to gradually increasing audiences irrespective of changing trends. On stage they create a world of their own, a comic mock-Gothic twilight zone where they roam like papier mâché gods. The bare-chested Lux, with his dark-ringed eyes, black hair and pale complexion, looked like a reject from the *Addams* family, while Ivy in her chi-chi belly-dancer's rig could have stepped straight out of a Fry's Turkish Delight commercial but for the guitar strapped round her neck. The new bassist, a big-boned girl known as Fur, contributed to

the gaiety with her preposterous parody of a *Playboy* bunny-girl, replete with Mohican hair-style, fur-covered bra, bobbing tail and hiker boots. Nick Knox, the drummer, looked normal.

This vision of B-movie tat appropriately complemented their musical approach, a B-side package of morbid punk rockability with touches of Sixties surf-beat and drain-water psychedelia. The ragged voodoo spirit was well captured, and proved a lot of fun, as during "Blue Moon Baby", when Ivy's faltering, twanging guitar steered surfboards through swamps, or in "The Most Exalted Potentate of Love", where she brought Jonathan Richman's Egypt to the Hammer House of Horror.

Fur livened things up with odd grotesque sequences of fuzz-boxed bass, while Knox bashed out minimal patterns with calm uninterest. Lux sang in an echoing, tuneless growl, throwing himself about with the sort of disturbed abandon pioneered by that venerable patron of the theatrical self-abuse Iggy Pop. "You've got good taste", Lux congratulated the audience, and as opened bottles of wine and broken bits of microphone-stands flew about the stage, it looked as if we were about to see a monster at last. Unique, unspoilt, glorious trash.

David Sinclair



Maria Ewing: tense, bizarre, compelling

played well and the woodwind superbly in the exposed solos.

Hall's direction and John Bury's sets are conservative, even reactionary, given recent attempts at innovative opera production. But Hall has conceived a suitably realistic framework for his wife's hyper-realistic portrayal. In the first and fourth acts he peoples the stage with Zeffirellian horses, even throwing in a few horses at the end. On its own, mostly traditional, terms this is a well-conceived production, desperately needing some great singing, more solid acting and a grand personality. Domingo is missed.

James R. Oestreich

Carmen Jones  
Crucible, Sheffield

Nowadays it is big news in the operatic world when Siegfried enters a time-warrior or Rigoletto gets co-opted into the Manhattan Mafia. But such directorial exploits pale in comparison with that of Oscar Hammerstein II who, in 1943, devised not only a modern American setting but an entirely new libretto for *Carmen* while remaining wholly faithful to the score and spirit of the original.

Pre-empted by the 1954 film version, the stage production never crossed the Atlantic and it has been left to Sheffield to present this long-delayed but well-timed European premiere, an event that catches the tide of opera-for-all with Broadway's most successful raid on the Metropolitan Opera House.

Famously, *Carmen Jones* takes place entirely inside black America, which denies it the ethnic tension between the Spanish militia and the gypsies. But the substitution of a group of wartime GIs and the girls from a parachute factory leaves the dramatic imperative intact. It is still a world polarized between discipline and passion. Also, although this is before the emergence of Black Power, Joe and his buddies are serving in the white man's army to which Carmen presents a political as well as an erotic temptation. The shame of Bizet's Don José is nothing in comparison to that of Hammerstein's Joe, interrupting his dance with Carmen to confess that he has to catch the bus.

The plot uniquely combines all the apparatus of melodrama with total truthfulness to human behaviour: and this survives as well in the company of punters and prizefighters as it does with smugglers and toradors.

The Crucible has a fine record with musicals and Steven Pimlott's and Clare Venables' production is well up to standard. Its large company contains a high proportion of Americans with two or three outstandingly good voices. Choreography, by Carole Todd, makes thrilling spectacles from the Habanera and the Seguidilla. Alison Chitty, normally a designer of the utmost austerity, contributes a highly detailed series of pieces which establish Billy Pastar's bar and the boxing gym with the hard realism of a Hopper painting. After the wired gates of the first act the chrome and black of the gym come over as a gateway to freedom and the big time; and you can feel

## Concerts

BBCSO/Eötvös  
Festival Hall/  
Radio 3

Quite how the Festival Hall could have been half empty for one of the most exhilarating concerts of the season defeats me. Here was Stravinsky's grandest late monument, *Threni*, a fascinating double piano concerto by the master of expressionist surrealism, Bernd Alois Zimmermann, and the first big orchestral piece for 14 years by Harrison Birtwistle. There should have been queues stretching as far as the eye could see. I hope more will make a date with the next "Music of Eight Decades" concert on April 2.

This time around Bruno Canino and Antonio Ballista were the quick-witted soloists in Zimmermann's *Dialogue*, which has a vast orchestra flickering with keyboard figuration, as if issuing from a dozen rainbow pianos, before the awesome entrance of ghost quotations from Debussy and Mozart. After a masterly exposition of this score Peter Eötvös conducted a beautiful

ly calm performance of Stravinsky's liturgy of chance, dances and magic letters for the church of the lost god.

Then came Birtwistle's *Earth Dances*, a 35-minute sprawling, lumbering giant of a score that makes a quick verbal sketch more than usually irrelevant. It is like his *Silbury Air* and his *Secret Theatre* multiplied together, a work of long groundswells, of strange unending melody (especially for the woodwind ensemble), of cascading clock-works from tuned percussion, of densely worked string textures, and huge heroic fanfares: often of all these things together, with the addition of something new in the dance element that keeps trickling over the surface, frequently speaking rather curiously with a Latin-American accent, though not in the climatic and tumultuous "Dance sacrilegious". A lesser composer would have followed precedent and stopped here, but Birtwistle successfully goes on into a slow, quiet coda, to leave his audience staring (like Parsifal) after an opaque ceremonial of magnificence.

Paul Griffiths

Academy of  
London/Stamp  
Elizabeth Hall

Donald Erb's 1975 Cello Concerto belongs to that genre of large orchestral pieces that flourishes particularly profusely in the United States. Borrowing the musical rhetoric of *Angst* created largely by central European composers in response to their own difficult environments, the Americans create upbeat pieces which fluctuate between brassiness and pseudo-mysticism in a showy manner rather too obviously designed to titillate (but not to shock) non-specialist audiences. Such works do tend to rise and fall on a seasonal basis, usually written to fill the "new music slot" in the repertoire of the big-city orchestras, they are then superseded by next year's commissions.

This concerto, however, is at the very least a marvelously eclectic vehicle for the extrovert virtuosity and big, buzzing tone of Lynn Harrell, the soloist in this British premiere. And its mosaic of string glissandi and harmonics, accelerating pitch and

chord oscillations, and colourful percussive effects — plus more distracting requirements, like a vocal contribution from the cellist (Harrell revealed quite a presentable baritone) — is organized highly efficiently. The transition from the slow middle section to the finale's busy complexity was especially dramatic.

Erb sat a little awkwardly in what was otherwise an all-Tchaikovsky programme. Harrell gave a scintillating performance of the Variations on a Roccoco Theme, artfully combining the heroic and the wistful. The American soprano Maggi Heilwell sang the *Eugene Onegin* Letter Scene with vibrant tone, especially in the top register; but young Tatiana sounded unusually phlegmatic in this characterization.

The conductor, Richard Stamp, may not stray far from the conventional in interpretative terms, but his Academy of London invariably recruits outstanding players, including a fair proportion of London-based Americans. Having accompanied neatly all evening, they ended with a splendidly robust account of the *Sere-nade* in C.

Richard Morrison

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## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

## US NOTEBOOK

## The dream years could be ending

From Maxwell Newton  
New York

The American economy is headed for a growth rate of less than 2 per cent in the first quarter, well below the "consensus" forecast and the Administration's forecast of 3 to 4 per cent growth. All the economic numbers have pointed to this result, and have stimulated an extraordinary boom in bond prices which has driven the 30-year bond yield below 8 per cent.

The long-bond is expected to reach a yield of 7 per cent this year and the nearby T-bond futures contract is likely to reach 100. At present this contract is about 97½. In mid-February it stood at 84.

Trade deficit  
Evidence of weakness in the economy is shown in retail sales, industrial production, civilian employment, durable goods orders and a record overseas trade deficit.

Retail sales fell 0.1 per cent last month after a revised figure of -0.2 per cent in January (originally reported as +0.1 per cent); industrial production last month fell 0.6 per cent after a revised decline of 0.1 per cent in January (originally reported as a rise of 0.3 per cent); January's trade deficit of \$16.46 billion (\$11.35 billion) was a record and the increase in February employment was a modest 226,000, below the average monthly increase of 238,000 during the whole of last year.

The possibility of a recession this year now seems a far more reasonable proposition than it did at the end of last year when the monetarist-dominated "consensus" was forecasting a "surge of growth" in the first quarter of this year. Despite the 20 to 25 per cent devaluation of the dollar since February last year, the US trade deficit has remained as big as ever.

Many analysts do not believe this problem can be solved without a further 30 per cent devaluation of the dollar combined with a recession, so that US real economic growth this year is, say, 1 per cent, and that of her major trading partners is, say, 4 per cent.

While both the bond market and the stock market have enjoyed large gains in recent weeks, the stock market now appears to be the more vulnerable. The market leader, IBM, has fallen from 158 to 150 in the last couple of weeks. The stock market is being supported by declining interest rates, rather than any notable profitability of American business.

The present boom in the stock market is now 42 months old, compared with the post-war average of 38 months.

Much foreign buying of US stocks and bonds during the boom that began in mid-February has arrested the decline of the dollar. The New York cotton exchange index of the dollar futures fell from 139 on September 20 last year, to 114 in late February. Since then the June contract has recovered to 117.43 at the close on Thursday.

More money  
Once the stock market begins its inevitable decline, the dollar is likely to decline with it as foreigners withdraw their funds.

It was notable that the announcement on Friday of the drop in industrial production during January and February led to a surge in the currency. March yen rose 100 to 56.68, the equivalent of 176 to the dollar. This was a significant break in the yen's fortunes.

The US has been leading a dream existence for the last five years, as increasingly large trade deficits have been financed by willing foreigners.

As long as a growth trend of sorts could be continued and as long as US financial assets continued to appreciate, this pleasant state of affairs could continue. But now, the limits of the stock market boom are being approached and at the same time it is apparent that the US trade deficit is getting worse despite a large devaluation.

Americans may at last be approaching a point where they can no longer consume more than they produce. This applies to individuals, to corporations and to the federal government.

Lower inflation is set to help the world back to stable exchange rates, according to the latest *International Financial Outlook* bulletin from Lloyd's Bank.

Governments in the industrial world, the bulletin says, should find it easier to stabilize their currencies in the absence of high inflation and large interest rate differences. However, it gives a warning that in the short run, exchange

## Yamani 'is ready to meet Thatcher over output'

From David Young, Geneva

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) yesterday renewed its attack on Britain for refusing to cooperate in cutting North Sea oil production to help ease the pressure on world oil prices.

And it has suggested that a meeting between Mrs Thatcher and Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, may be sought to persuade the Prime Minister that falling oil revenues are as bad for Britain as they are for the 13 Opec members.

Sheikh Yamani said yesterday in Geneva that he is prepared to consider meeting anyone to find a solution to the oil price crisis.

Although suggesting that prices may have to fall even further, he has quoted a figure of \$8 a barrel - the Saudi oil minister said: "We must be prepared to explore all solutions."

A meeting between Sheikh Yamani, the architect of most of Opec's recent policy, and Mrs Thatcher would take place on an informal basis and Britain would agree to it only if Opec accepted beforehand

that the British Government could not dictate to the oil companies in the North Sea what their output should be.

British policy has always been that output from the North Sea should be dictated by free market demand, although Opec still considers that North Sea production would remain at its then level of 2.2 million barrels a day, instead of rising to its present average of 2.7 million barrels a day.

Opec has timed this week's meeting in Geneva to clash with Mr Lawson's Budget, knowing that uncertainty over the world oil price would have a psychological effect on its calculations.

Its ministerial meeting will be followed on Wednesday by a meeting with non-member oil producers such as Mexico, Malaysia, Oman, Egypt and possibly India.

Norway had suggested that it might attend, but reversed its position apparently after



Sheikh Yamani in Geneva yesterday

pressure from the United States.

Britain was not invited because Opec did not want to create a situation which would lead to an inevitable snub.

However, Britain's cooperation was again called for yesterday by Dr Mansour Saeed Al Otaiba, the United Arab Emirates oil minister, who, with Sheikh Yamani, is leading the element within Opec which is prepared to see prices fall further to secure an agree-

ment on production which will be obeyed by all Opec members and with which non-members can cooperate.

He said: "If we don't get together then the price is going to fall far below \$10. There is a feeling that Opec should reach a new output agreement and after that has been agreed and obeyed then the non-Opec producers should respond."

The president of Opec, Senor Arturo Grisanti, the Venezuelan oil minister, said that he expected Opec to spend the next two days discussing the level at which its members feel they should defend their market share.

Kuwait has put forward a proposal that each country should accept a cut in the output quota agreed on in London in March 1983, but that they should also accept that they must be strictly adhered to.

Mr Grisanti said: "We know that many oil producing countries outside Opec are also concerned about the falling oil price and I know that they are willing to help bring stability back to the market."

## Monk may launch bid for rejuvenated Woolworth

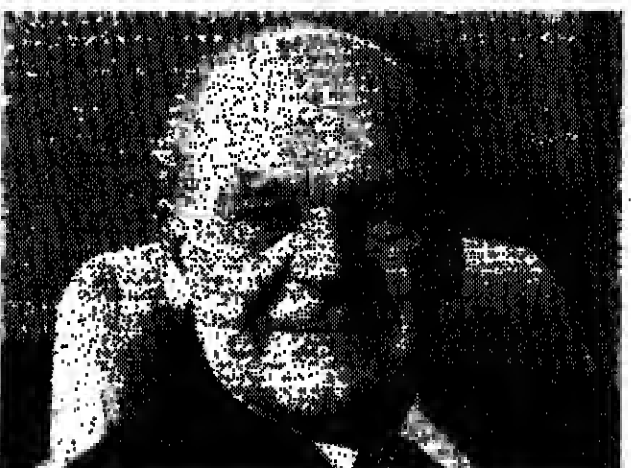
By Edward Townsend  
Industrial Correspondent

Woolworth Holdings, whose subsidiaries include the do-it-yourself B & Q stores, the Comet electrical discount shops and the chain of now profitable high street stores, was said yesterday to be the subject of a possible takeover bid from the Dees Corporation.

Although Woolworth, which is soon to lose its chairman and chief executive, Mr John Beckett, has not yet been approached, Mr Alec Monk, chairman of Dees, was said in one report to be ready to bid.

Dees, under the guiding hand of Mr Monk, has expanded rapidly, and its retailing names include Gateway and Lemnos. Pretax profits for the year, which ends next month, are expected to leap by 40 per cent to £82 million.

A leaser, more streamlined Woolworth is to announce its results on March 26 when Mr



John Beckett: he leaves with profits up to £80 million. Beckett, brother of Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, will reveal pretax profits of around £80 million compared with £57 million a year ago.

Mr Beckett is expected to announce a turnaround to the

fortunes of the Woolworth high street stores, which made a £5 million loss last year. They are now said to have made a profit of £15 million. Woolworth shares rose 8p last week. They closed at 61½ on Friday, which values the company at almost £1 billion.

## A £748m boost for tourism

By Our Industrial Editor

Fifty-five tourism projects worth £135 million were completed in England in the second half of last year. And other major projects under construction during that time accounted for another £613 million of investment.

The figures were given yesterday in the latest survey by the English Tourist Board. Its chairman, Mr Duncan Black, said: "The level of investment in tourism and leisure continues to grow and is a positive pointer to job prospects in the industry."

Leisure and sports developments accounted for £113 million of investment between July and December last year. Many were local authority funded.

Schemes which have benefited from European Regional Development Fund grants are Blackpool's £16 million Sandcastle leisure complex and Bridlington's £4.3 million 3-Bs all-weather entertainment centre, due to open in 1987.

About £107 million has gone into cultural attractions. The biggest single investment was £26 million for the refurbishment - due for completion in June, 1987 - of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Some £57 million is being invested in new hotels, although only one is in central London with its planning problems.

Although there have been extensions and refurbishments at other London hotels in recent years, the English Tourist Board is worried at the lack of hotel building in the capital.

rates are about to go through a turbulent period. According to the bulletin the Budget will have a big impact on the pound, especially if it includes a commitment to link sterling to the European Monetary System.

And the Opec meeting to Geneva, it says, will see a "final, though probably not successful" attempt to boost oil prices through production cuts.

Lower inflation is set to help the world back to stable exchange rates, according to the latest *International Financial Outlook* bulletin from Lloyd's Bank.

Governments in the industrial world, the bulletin says, should find it easier to stabilize their currencies in the absence of high inflation and large interest rate differences. However, it gives a warning that in the short run, exchange

## Clothing and textile exports rise 14%

By Teresa Poole

British clothing and textile exports rose 14 per cent to £12.14 billion last year.

Clothing was particularly buoyant, up 9 per cent in volume and 18 per cent in value, according to the British Textile Confederation's review of 1985.

Although the overall balance of trade deficit increased by £41 million to £2.159 billion, this marks a slowing in the pace of deterioration, despite a 9 per cent increase in the value of imports to more than £5 billion.

In clothing, Ireland remained the largest single overseas customer for British goods but the main growth came from the US, which increased its imports of British clothes and knitwear by more than a third.

The US also consolidated its position as the top importer of British textiles, with a

rise of more than a fifth in value.

The most successful export product remains the British sweater, with a 19 per cent increase to £240 million.

In the light of the imminent negotiations for the renewal of the Multi Fibre Arrangement - an agreement on quotas governing world trade in textiles - the federation says that Third World imports will be slashed into the EEC if the US adopts the headline MFA policy indicated by President Reagan.

British output has recovered strongly over the past three years but clothing production is still slightly below pre-slump levels, while textile output is 20 per cent lower.

Textile and Clothing Imports in 1985, published by the British Textile Confederation, £25.

## Spar drive aims to double '8 till Late' stores to 2,000

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Spar, the franchised grocery chain which is Britain's biggest operator of convenience stores, has started a drive aimed at more than doubling its stores to about 2,000. It hopes to have 1,500 operating by the end of the year.

This represents an escalation of competition to convenience stores, which are increasing in number as a result of the newly-emerging growth sector in grocery retailing complementary to the supermarkets boom.

And it is bound to increase fears that there will soon be casualties among those rushing into the sector.

Convenience stores open from early in the morning until late in the evening, including weekends, selling a wide range of groceries including fresh foods, alcoholic drinks, newspapers and magazines and other household goods with services like video libraries. A growing trend is to link convenience stores with petrol stations.

Spar, an early convert to convenience stores, has 900 such shops under the "8 till Late" banner as well as about

2,000 traditional outlets displaying the Spar symbol.

Spar's central organization is planning a series of roadshows to sell to more of its franchisees the plan to refurbish stores, where appropriate to convenience store standard, backed by bigger Spar spending on advertising and other support services.

Mr John Irish, chief executive of Spar UK, said investment at store level alone is expected to be more than £5 million. This will be spending by the store franchisees, although a Spar committee will help with equipment buying by negotiating subsidies and a financing scheme through the National Westminster Bank is being expanded. There will also be free print for stores needing a shopfront facelift.

The convenience concept is paying off at Spar, according to Mr Irish. Average turnover at 8 till Late outlets is 70 per cent higher than at the other, more traditional Spar shops, with most of the convenience outlets doubling their profits. A few have trebled or even quadrupled profits, he said.

Mr Irish added: "It looks likely that the number of

convenience stores in Britain will rise by the end of this year to 3,000. By 1988 the number could well go to 5,000. It seems to me that there will be a lot of casualties along the way."

Among the bigger convenience store chains, all with 50 or more outlets, are the Guinness subsidiary 7-Eleven, Southampton-based Missetbrook and Weston and Sperrings.

Sperrings started convenience stores in Britain and it has begun franchising outlets to achieve faster growth. Macc Wavy Line, another "symbol" group organized rather like Spar, has also been developing the convenience concept.

So too has the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS), with the prospect of achieving a chain of several hundred outlets that would involve many of the independent retail co-operative societies.

A number of oil companies, including Texaco, BP and Ultramar, are experimenting with convenience stores linked to petrol stations. Ultramar and Spar have half a dozen UltraSpar outlets.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

## Popular capitalism, more than a gamble

Wider share ownership, the purpose behind Mrs Thatcher's image of "popular capitalism", has been spread only skin-deep by the British Telecom flotation. A quick Budget facial tomorrow will, no doubt, help to imprint it on the face of society. But we need to look for deeper roots of change if it is to develop from political fashion to national habit.

The purpose of "popular capitalism" is, after all, something more profound than the desire to divert the gambling instinct of the British from dogs and horses to hulls and bears. It is to break down the antithesis of profits and wages; to create an identity of interest between entrepreneurial success and public satisfaction. But it is also to build up income security through personally-owned assets which reduce dependence on the state and its network of benefits; and this is where the objectives may not always coincide.

The starting point, of course, is the spread of house ownership - the definition of the "property-owning democracy" that took hold in the Macmillan era, and which Mrs Thatcher is now seeking to enlarge to encompass the ownership of financial assets.

The parallels are obvious. House ownership provided a stake in society, a sense of personal security, a lessening of dependence on the state. The Labour Party long underestimated the appetite for personal property in the sphere of housing; perhaps it is now similarly underestimating the desire for personal control of one's savings. But there is, in fact, a much more direct link between the two changes.

In three generations, home ownership has spread from a mere 10 per cent of households to about 60 per cent. As this change has taken place, there have naturally been, in each generation, more home-owners among the middle-aged than among their parents; but eventually it works its way through to the elderly. Within 20 years, the Government's statisticians calculate, about 70 per cent of the retired will be living in their own homes.

This, in turn, means that roughly 70 per cent of the nation's middle-aged will stand to inherit a personal asset from their parents. But as home-owning has spread, most of these beneficiaries will already own their own homes; even if their mortgages are not paid off, under the present tax system it will be advantageous to them to go on borrowing while investing the proceeds of their parents' property elsewhere.

That phenomenon may already be apparent in the simultaneous rise in personal assets and liabilities we have seen in the past five years. It is, of course, also stimulated by the return of positive real interest rates. But this generational change in house-owning is likely, over the next 20 years,

further to push up the trend in the personal ownership of financial assets.

Plainly, personal pension provision is going to increase. It will be stimulated, in any case, by changes the Government is making in the state earnings-related scheme. These are designed not merely to encourage the growth of private, occupational schemes, but even more to encourage personal pensions. The key question, however, is the extent to which personal savers will have an appetite for risk.

Until recently, the tax advantages encrusted on the pension system actively steered the individual away from risk. In order to qualify for "contracting-out" of the state earnings-related pension, occupational schemes had to offer benefits linked to salaries - not to the returns earned on the investments. One of the most significant changes proposed by Mr Norman Fowler is that private schemes will not have to guarantee a fixed level of benefits.

This modest unclashing of the strait-jacket of pension investment allow us a freer choice; but that is not to say that the vast majority of savers want to take risks with their savings. Home ownership, of course, has involved risk; there have certainly been periods during the past 75 years when mortgage-holders have seen their investments turn sour. But the housing market has been underpinned by tax advantages; while alternatives to house-ownership have become less and less attractive.

In contrast, the financial markets offer a wide spectrum of assets, with varying risks attached. Recent survey evidence suggests that the new breed of Telecom shareholder sees the stock market as a hobby; he (or increasingly, she) looks to the big institutions as a secure channel for savings. If that is the sentiment in a bull market, it can only be reinforced by a stock market slump. Which leads, perhaps, to two tentative conclusions.

The first is that the Government should foster "popular capitalism" not merely through the single medium of personal share ownership but through equal encouragement of the ownership of all kinds of financial assets: the aim of individual independence is best served by allowing people to build up financial assets with which they personally feel secure. The second is that where the Government feels a clearer need to create an identity of interest - most significantly, between an employee and the company he or she works for - then substantial and very specific incentives are called for. The two objectives can be pursued under a single slogan - just so long as their distinctive element are clearly understood.

Sarah Hogg  
Economics Editor

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The Stock will be registered at the Bank of England or at the Bank of Ireland, Belfast and will be transferable, in multiples of one penny, by instrument in writing in accordance with the Stock Transfer Act 1982. Stock registered at the Bank of Ireland will be transferable to the account of members of the Central Gilt Office Service will also be transferable, in multiples of one penny, by instrument in writing in accordance with the Stock Transfer Act 1982 and the relevant subordinate legislation.

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Letters of allotment may be split into denominations of multiples of £100 on written request received by the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London, EC4M 8AA on any date not later than 12th June 1986. Such request must be signed and must be accompanied by the letters of allotment (but a letter cannot be split if any payment is overdue).

Letters of allotment must be surrendered for registration, accompanied by a completed registration form, when the final payment is paid, unless payment in full has been made before the due date, in which case they must be surrendered for registration not later than 16th June 1986.

Until the close of business on 30th July 1986, Stock issued in accordance with this prospectus will be known as 9 per cent Conversion Stock, 2000 "A". The interest due on 3rd September 1986 will be paid separately on holdings of the 9 per cent Conversion Stock, 2000 and on holdings of "A" Stock as at the close of business on 30th July 1986. Consequently, interest mandates, authorities for income tax exemption and other notifications registered in respect of holdings of existing Stock will not be applied to the payment of interest due on 3rd September 1986 on holdings of "A" Stock.

The last day for lodgement at the Bank of England of transfers for registration as "A" Stock will be 28th July 1986. After this date, for purposes of cancellation, the "A" Stock will not be distinguished from the existing 9 per cent Conversion Stock, 2000. From the opening of business on 31st July 1986 the "A" Stock will be amalgamated with the existing Stock.

Copies of this notice may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London, EC4M 8AA or at any of the branches of the Bank of England, or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England, 25 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2ES, at the Bank of Ireland, Marine Buildings, 155-157 Colander Street, Belfast, BT7 1BN, at Mullens & Co., 15 Moorgate, London, EC2R 8AN, or at any office of The Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom.

Attention is drawn to the statement issued by Her Majesty's Treasury on 29th May 1985 which explained that, in the interest of the orderly conduct of local policy, neither Her Majesty's Government nor the Bank of England or their respective servants or agents undertake to disclose tax changes decided on but not yet announced even where they may specifically affect the terms on which or the conditions under which the Stock is issued or sold by or on behalf of the Government or the Bank, that no responsibility can therefore be accepted for any omission to make such disclosure, and that such omission shall neither render any transaction liable to be set aside nor give rise to any claim for compensation.

BANK OF ENGLAND  
LONDON

14th March 1986



# We, the Imperial Board, strongly recommend immediate acceptance of the United Biscuits offer.

(This is the form it should take.)

**FORM OF ACCEPTANCE, AUTHORITY AND ELECTION**  
United Biscuits (Holdings) plc Recommended Offer for  
Imperial Group public limited company

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 2.**  
Acceptance of the Offer is on the terms and subject to the conditions set out in the Offer Document. The provisions of paragraph 8 of Appendix II to the Offer Document are incorporated in and form part of this Form of Acceptance.

**TO ACCEPT THE OFFER**  
COMPLETE BOX 1 and COMPLETE BOXES 4 AND 5 BELOW

**BOX 1**  
NUMBER OF IMPERIAL ORDINARY SHARES  
500

**TO ELECT FOR THE CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED CASH ALTERNATIVE**  
HAVING COMPLETED BOX 1, COMPLETE BOX 2 and COMPLETE BOXES 4 AND 5 BELOW

**BOX 2**  
NUMBER OF IMPERIAL ORDINARY SHARES

**TO ELECT FOR THE ORDINARY SHARE ALTERNATIVE**  
HAVING COMPLETED BOX 1, COMPLETE BOX 3 and COMPLETE BOXES 4 AND 5 BELOW

**BOX 3**  
NUMBER OF IMPERIAL ORDINARY SHARES

**Signed, sealed and delivered by:**

**BOX 4**

1. ☐ 3. ☐  
2. ☐ 4. ☐

**BOX 5**

1. Forename(s) (Mr. Mrs. Miss) Surname  
Address Postcode  
2. Forename(s) (Mr. Mrs. Miss) Surname  
Address Postcode  
3. Forename(s) (Mr. Mrs. Miss) Surname  
Address Postcode  
4. Forename(s) (Mr. Mrs. Miss) Surname  
Address Postcode

**PLEASE PUT YES IN BOX 6 IF YOU ARE A US PERSON OR ACTING ON BEHALF OF A US PERSON**

**BOX 6**

**BOX 7**

If you are an Imperial shareholder, the unanimous advice of your Board, fully supported by its financial advisers, Hambros Bank, is that you should accept the offer made by United Biscuits.

In order to do this you should complete the white United Biscuits acceptance form immediately. All forms should be returned by 3.00pm on Friday, 21st March 1986.

This is the way to "stay with Imperial."

By accepting the UB offer, you will help create a major new British group, United Imperial,

which will ensure Imperial's businesses continue to prosper.

It is most important that every UB form of acceptance is despatched without delay. That is the best way of repelling the unwelcome Hanson bid.

If you need advice on how to complete the UB acceptance form, please telephone 0272-666961.





## GILT-EDGED

## Base rate cuts: too little and too late

The Chancellor, of course, is always limbo dancing towards his monetary targets. Most of the time, the girl in credit has stopped him from straining beneath the wand. Finally, last October, in exasperation, Mr Nigel Lawson junked the entire apparatus and splashed about instead in the currency pool. Credit demand, in the meantime, just kept a growin'.

A fresh turn to this touching fable may well take place tomorrow when the Chancellor fills the one spot each year which remains unquestionably his own — the Budget. Collapsing oil revenues have torn a hole in his revenue projections, and, if reports speak true, the Chancellor plans to raise his borrowing targets to absorb the shortfall.

This is a major divergence from the Medium Term Financial Strategy. But to preserve the spirit of the MTFSE enterprise, any loosening in targeted fiscal policy will be traded off against a notional tightening of monetary policy through the restoration of broad monetary targets.

Well, that is the story. And should the collective jaw of the British fund manager gape wide at this well-reported piece of speculation, then that jaw could be forgiven. Six months ago, markets were forced to go cold turkey on the Chancellor's credibility, after EM3 targeting was suspended amid a plethora of official redomontade.

Yet the mere fact that the Chancellor is even toying with the idea of monetary targeting again illustrates the huge policy bind in which he has become enmeshed. Last October, it must have seemed like intelligence indeed to let the dials rust until the spring. Allow the credit growth to marinate away gently in the economy, his econometricians told him.

The low output capability of the economy means that in about a year's time it will find itself in the Stock Exchange, just in time to plump up the market for asset sales. The Chancellor must be furious with his boffins now, after they underestimated the transmission rate by a street.

Spring mania in markets means that the hubble may have burst long before British Gas is ready for flotation. The problem of excess credit growth poses a real threat to the Chancellor's negative expenditure plans.

But the Chancellor faces pressure on another front. So far, he has been unable to join in the rate-cutting spree of the rest of the Group of Five. The West Germans and the Americans took risks when they cut their discount rates, principally because of exchange rate fears. But none-

theless, they were able to bring their money rates into line with reduced inflation expectations, and notionally at least, benefit their real economies.

Not so Britain, which has not felt able so far to follow suit for a host of reasons. Apprehension ahead of the present Opec meeting will have played a part in the decision to procrastinate. But so too will the latest set of money supply numbers, which pointed to broad money growth of about 13 per cent a year, rocky PSBR trends, and a familiar high level of bank lending.

Meanwhile, the accord between the Group of Five has moved into a new phase. In the United States, a series of bad numbers on retail sales and industrial production, coupled with low producer prices data, pushed bonds and equities into near-frenzy, as the traders hollered for cheaper money. But Switzerland, significantly, has no intention, apparently, of cutting its discount rate.

At a meeting last week of the Bank for International Settlements, mid-European central bankers were adamant that no more rate cuts loomed on the horizon. Whatever the Chancellor now does, he seems certain to risk offending either the German currency bloc or the New York-Tokyo axis. And if he does nothing, he risks dropping out of the G5 club

altogether, with all which that means for fine borrowing terms.

German call and one-month rates firmed up last week. The Chancellor may have missed the rate-cutting window, in the broadest sense of the term.

Intriguingly, the policy dilemmas faced by the Chancellor were mirrored last week by the Bank of England in its dealing tactics. The Bank was at its most severe in the money markets. Shortages were large, about £1 billion a day, and the Bank deployed a series of manoeuvres to grind down expectations that a 1 per cent rate cut was just around the corner.

The Bank did not succeed completely, since the Treasury bill tender on Friday indicated that the houses were still looking for a cut of ½ point in base rates. But the authorities made the houses pay dearly for their optimism, by locking them into a series of sale and repurchase agreements which became progressively more expensive as the week went on. Very short period rates remained firm at over 13 per cent.

To this sober picture of rectitude, the Bank managed to add an element of skittishness through its funding move late on Friday.

The new stock, Conversion 9 per cent 2,000, or Little Greeks, will be available today in partly paid form.

meaning that no less than four HP stocks are now churning away in the market. This must account for some of the huge volumes traded in gilts during the past six weeks.

The logic behind the move is clear. The Bank wanted a stock on the shelf if Opec goes well. Failing that, it needed a tap to catch the traders after the Chancellor had sat down after presumably delivering a mouth-watering inflation forecast. Will the market hear 3 per cent, or better?

But the net effect of launching such a stock successfully on the gilt market ought to be to drive long yields down still further. Given the Bank's activities at the short end, this means that the steepness of the yield curve increases rather than diminishes. And this in turn makes the market far more volatile, not least because the relationship between money market rates and inflation hopes is growing more distant, as opposed to more proximate.

Traders scratched their heads at these apparent irreconcilables, and they were right to cogitate in the lull of battle. Especially striking is the realization that London gilts offer far less compensation than German bonds. With German inflation below 1 per cent, real yields in Germany are about 5 per cent. Add that figure back to British inflation, and a target yield zone of about 10½ per

cent can be constructed, about one percentage point higher than the current structure of returns.

The snap rationalization is that central banks are fighting back, after the surprise policy initiatives of the past few weeks. The Bank of England may well be spearheading the counter-attack, since alone of all the central banks, it has the most fundamental excuse, in terms of excess credit growth and the need to sell new monetary targets to the markets, for delaying falls in rates.

And traders know that once the Bank gets its hands on the policy levers, the short-end may be disappointed, because the Bank will eke out the rate cuts. The long end is vulnerable anyway through international comparisons and the sudden departure of hot money from the partly paid stocks.

Traders should beware of a lowhanging factor in the market. Base rates may fall this week, and they probably will. But on the other hand, they might not, and even if they do, the next fall may be some time away. *Et neglecta solent incendia sumere vires* is as true now as it was a couple of thousand years ago. A bias in portfolios towards income, rather than capital growth may pay off in the next few weeks.

Christopher Dunn  
Royal Orion Bank

## £8m riverside plan for tourist magnet

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Liverpool's Festival Gardens, which had 3.4 million visitors in 1984, its opening year, is to become part of a leisure development stretching across the Mersey from New Brighton to the garden festival site.

Under an agreement with the Merseyside Development Corporation at the weekend, Transworld Leisure, a London developer, is to spend £3 million on improvements this year and a further £5 million next year.

Initially Transworld will operate under licence, but there will be a long-term leasing arrangement after Transworld has invested £5.5 million.

Theme park attractions, including pleasure rides, are to be added to the festival site. Access is to be improved with changes at a hall and theatre in

the grounds. The aim is to bring in around a million visitors a year.

Welcoming the agreement, which should lead to 200 jobs at the gardens this summer, Dr John Ritchie, the development corporation's chief executive, said: "This will greatly help us to establish the waterfront as one of the foremost tourist destinations in the United Kingdom."

Transworld Leisure, with the recently-formed New Brighton Development Company, is also involved in a £65 million renewal scheme for the faded Victorian resort of New Brighton.

A 40-acre seafront theme park and a covered water park are among the plans. This is expected to create about 1,000 full-time jobs and another 1,000 part-time jobs.

## Ship freight rates slide again after decade of slump

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

After more than 10 years of almost uninterrupted slump, shipowners have suffered another slide in freight rates in recent weeks.

A dry cargo bulk carrier from the United States to Europe earns about \$6 a tonne compared with \$8 at the beginning of the year. A big tanker earns, in trade terminology, about Worldscale 25 from the Persian Gulf to Europe compared with Worldscale 32.5 in January. These are rates at which few owners can make money.

Two reasons are given for the latest turn in the freight market: lower oil prices, which lower shipowner costs and pass the reduction straight on to charterers; and a further drop in cargo moving, reflecting the sluggish state of the world economy.

Overhanging these temporary factors is the continuing huge surplus of shipping supply over demand.

According to the latest analysis from NYK Research in Japan, more than a third of the world's dry cargo fleet and more than half the tanker fleet are surplus to requirements.

NYK estimates bulk carrier supply in 1986 at 231 million tonnes, and demand at only 171 million — a surplus of 60 million tonnes. Tanker supply is estimated at 257 million tonnes, and supply at 166 million — an even bigger gap.

With that sort of imbalance between supply and demand, there can be little hope of the kind of sustained upturn in rates shipowners need. It is a gap that has been building up ever since the mid-1970s, and there has been little sign of a long-term improvement.

In the 10 years to 1983 tanker demand in the crude oil trades fell by 46 per cent, but the tanker fleet grew by 10 per cent despite heavy scrapping.

Over the same period dry bulk traffic in the three main

trades — ore, coal and grain — increased by 21.5 per cent. But the fleet grew by 82 per cent.

With a huge surplus of ships still overhauling the market, and slower growth in the two main bulk trades, oil and ore, there can be little short-term optimism. The rate of oil consumption per unit of gross domestic product has already fallen from 0.46 to 0.31 from the 1970s to the 1980s, and by 1990 it is expected to fall further to 0.27. And, as the steel industry moves towards ever more efficient production methods, scrap is increasingly displacing pig iron as a source material, and ore flows are consequently reduced.

The effect of all this, according to Mr Jim Davis, shipping director at Kleinwort Benson and chairman of the International Maritime Industries Forum, is that "in the short term prospects remain extremely bad."

But in the longer term, he sees light beginning to appear in the form of an improved relationship between scrapping and building, resulting in a further reduction in the world fleet — and hence surplus tonnage — if only banks, owners and the governments of shipbuilding states can exercise self-restraint.

"If only people will get together on a sensible approach to scrapping, this could be the worst year," says Mr Davis. "Things are moving in the right direction."

Food takeover

Conditional terms have been agreed for Slater Foods to acquire the capital of Uncle Wong Food Products, a frozen and chilled food producer. Payment is to be through 1.5 million Slater shares valued at a total of £2.1 million plus a further 4,000 shares for every £1,000 pretax profit by Uncle Wong above £200,000 up to a maximum of 2.4 million shares.

## An Enchanting Tapestry featuring a Bouquet of Spring Flowers

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The tapestry is perfect for wall hangings, cushion covers, chair seats, table tops, fire screens and footstools etc. Beautifully designed in colour printed 100% double cotton thread canvas and worked in half cross stitch. The complete 14in or 17in kit is a British made and contains a complete set of yarns, needles and instructions.

Canvas size: 26" sq. (10 holes per inch). Also available English made rotating top work frame with beechwood side arms, 27in wide x 12in deep, £5.95.

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Less 15% USA Withholding Tax	0.525 cents
	2.975 cents
Converted at \$1.465	= \$0.020307167

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United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should mark payment of the dividend in the appropriate square on the back of the certificate.

All other claimants must complete the special form and present this at the above address together with the certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

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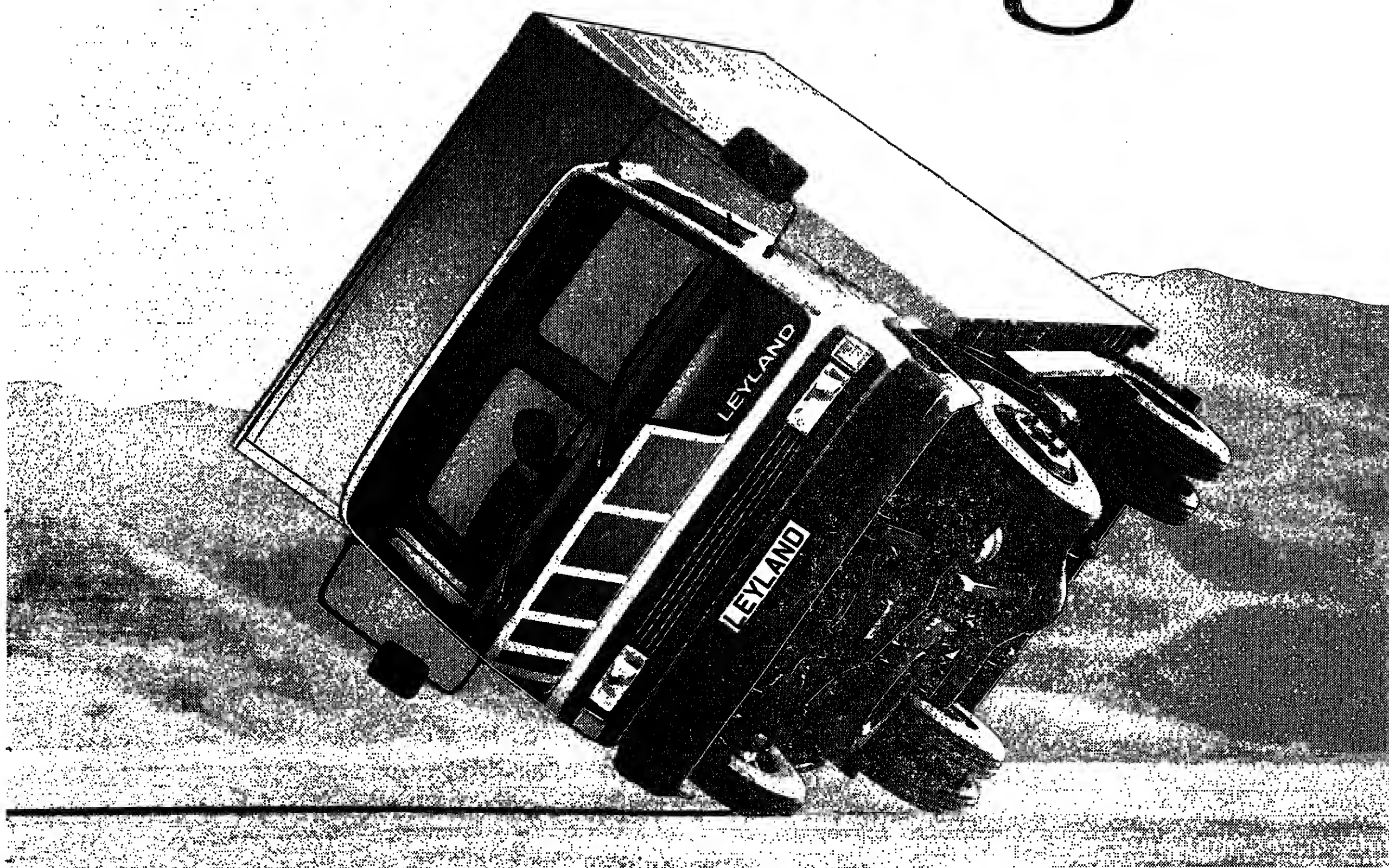
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## FOOTBALL

## Putting minds to the job in hand

By Vince Wright

Involvement in the later rounds of either of the two main domestic cup competitions of ten makes players regard League matches as a distraction. However, on Saturday, most of the teams still left in the FA Cup and Milk Cup refused to let their minds wander and concentrated on the business of collecting three points.

Southampton were the odd side out, but then it is never a disgrace to lose to Liverpool. A crowd of 19,784 - the biggest of the season at the Dell - saw the possible double for the FA Cup semi-final. Lawrence gave Southampton a 49th minute lead by squeezing the ball from Liverpool's improbable angle, but Liverpool quickly equalized through Wark and then Rush scored a brilliant goal for the winner. The result will put Liverpool in good heart for tonight's sixth round replay at Anfield, but the Reds' victory at Watford and has increased the prospect of a League and FA Cup double on Merseyside.

Watford will probably have something to say about that. A scrummed goal by their centre half, Terry, after 73 minutes enabled them to win a low-key affair at Maine Road. Manchester City, their opponents, squandered chances to build a comfortable half-time lead and have no goals or points to show from their last five matches.

Sheffield Wednesday, who play Everton in the other FA Cup semi-final, beat Coventry City for their third victory in eight days. Sheffield scored the only goal but Wednesday were more grateful to Hodge, their goalkeeper, who denied Regis (twice) and Brazil with acrobatic saves.

Marine Evans, manager of Oxford United, the English League position is more important to the club than glory at Wembley, so he will have been delighted by his team's 2-1 success against a Leeds United Town penalty by Aldridge.

Wimbledon's long-half game may not be everyone's cup of tea but nobody can deny its effectiveness. The 2-0 defeat of Fulham at Craven Cottage improves the chances of Wimbledon becoming the first supported club ever to be promoted to the first division. Sanchez and Cork scored the goals and just to prove that it was not Fulham's day, Barnett missed a penalty.

Hearts in position to dictate

For the first time this season, Hearts of Midlothian are in a position to win the Scottish League premier division by their own efforts rather than relying on the mistakes of the other challengers. A 2-0 win on Saturday over Motherwell, who are bottom of the table, coincided with the United, Aberdeen and Celtic each dropping a point.

At the turn of year, Hearts could have been overtaken by United, Aberdeen and Celtic but goals from MacDonald and Robertson enabled them to equal the equalizer division record of 21 League games without defeat, lifting them three points clear of United.

Celtic and Dundee United did themselves no favours by drawing 1-1 in an away match at League premier division at Dundee where United's host was ordered off two minutes from the end after collecting two bookings. David Hay, the Celtic manager, conceded: "Hearts have got to be favourites now, even though they have a lot of hard games coming up. It seems that everyone else is trying to give them the title."

It needed an eighteenth minute equalizer from Celtic substitute, to cancel out Dundee's first half goal.

Halesowen and Wisbech in driving seat

By Paul Newman

Halesowen Town and Wisbech Town, who faced each other in the semi-finals of the FA Vase a year ago, are on course to meet in the first leg of their semi-finals on Saturday. Halesowen (West Midlands League) drew 1-1 away to Warrington Town (North West Counties League) and Wisbech secured a 2-2 draw away to Seathall (Vaughall-Opel League).

Halesowen, who went on to win last season's competition after beating Wisbech, went behind in Warrington when Hunter converted a penalty early in the second half but equalized through Lee Johnson a quarter of an hour from the end. The match was watched by a record crowd of at least half of the Halesowen supporters.

Wisbech took the lead against Southall after 16 minutes through Waddicor, who played for Stamford in the 1984 Vase final. Ferdinand put Southall level shortly before the lead after Holland gave them after 67 minutes. Mitchell, Wisbech's substitute, scored what could prove to be a crucial equalizer three minutes from the end. The attendance was 1,038.

## RACING: TUNNELL TO SEEK ENGLISH-IRISH NATIONAL DOUBLE WITH TRACYS SPECIAL AND MAORI VENTURE



Peter Scudamore, the leading rider, completes a Chesham four-timer with a victory on Celtic Fleet

## Last Suspect spot on for Aintree again

By Michael Seely

Last Suspect showed himself to be on target for a second consecutive Grand National win when beating Corbiere by 15 lengths in the Marathon Chase at Chesham on Saturday. "I thought we were beat when Broadbent went clear," Tim Forster, the trainer, said yesterday, "but after that he went through better. I'm delighted with the horse, but lightning seldom strikes in the same place twice." Forster himself will be bidding for a fourth National victory.

David Stait, Jenny Pitman's assistant expressed himself as being satisfied with Corbiere's performance in finishing second as the old warrior is being prepared to improve on his previous record of one victory and two thirds in the National. "We couldn't have hoped to beat Last Suspect at those weights," he said. "Corbiere will now have a couple of days

hunting and then we hope he'll be ready." Andy Tunnell was a trainer with his thoughts on two Nationals after his horse, Maori Venture, had shown the well being of the East Handed team by beating Port Astaig in the Bic Orange Razer Handicap at Lingfield Park. "Maori Venture stays well and I'd like to run him in the Irish Grand National if he gets a reasonable weight," Tunnell said.

Tunnell then went on to talk about his Aintree hope, Tracy's Special, who failed to complete the course in last week's Ritz Club Chase at Cheltenham. "His reins got in a tangle after a mistake," he said. "So Steve Knight had to pull him up. I might give him another run at Newbury at the weekend."

"He missed nearly two seasons, but I think I've got him right now," Tunnell went on and with only 10.5lb to carry he's got a reasonable racing weight."

Negative National news, however, came from Newcastle after Peaty Sandy had surpassed himself by gaining his eighth course victory in the Mercedes Benz Chase. Helen Hamilton, the 12-year-old's trainer, said that Peaty Sandy would now be aimed at the Scottish National, provided that the ground is not too firm. And Jimmy Fitzgerald is uncertain about the immediate future of Canny Danny, who was pulled up at the fourth fence from home.

"If he's alright, we might give him another race and see how he gets on," Fitzgerald said, "but we might find that the five week freeze-up has prevented us from getting Canny Danny ready for the National."

Fitzgerald also reported Forgive N' Forget to be suffering from sore shins after his gallant third to Dawn Run in last Thursday's Cheltenham Gold Cup. "He lost 22 kilos and is feeling a bit sorry for

himself," the trainer said. "He may not run again this season."

Peter Easterby continued in sparkling form at Gosforth Park and John O'Neill's double on Wilby Bank and Hunslet gave the versatile Malton trainer his seventh win in the past nine racing days. These victories will also have given heart to supporters of Well Rigged, who has been backed down from 14-1 to favourite at 8-1 for the £25,000 William Hill Lincoln Ladbrokes have made Steve Cauthen favourite at 11-8 on to become champion jockey for the third successive year when the 1986 Flat racing season begins at Doncaster on Thursday. They then offer 1-4 against Willie Carson, 6-1 Pat Eddery and 14-1 Brent Thomson. With Walter Swinburn likely to be riding for Lester Piggott as well as Michael Stoute, the 40-1 on offer against this stylish jockey may be a little generous.

Another lady trainer with bright prospects of saddling a winner is Mary Reveley, who is always enjoying her best season when she has an improving handicapper in LUCYLET (4-5).

For the day's best bet, though, I take EMDAR to gain his second win over fences in the 2,150 Dan The Millar Chase. Harry Wharton's seven-year-old best the subsequent Sun Alliance Chase winner, Cross Master, at

NEWCASTLE

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JOCKEYS: G. Bradley, 14 winners from 66 rides, 21.2%; C. Hawley, 18 from 104, 17.3%; T. D. Smith, 18 from 53, 18.1%.

PLUMPTON

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## Emandar looks in Sangster's grip is threatened

By Mandarin

The result of Saturday's Bic Razor Gold Cup underlined the advantage that horses with a run since the freeze have over those without. Inlander and Moon Mariner, fourth and sixth in the Imperial Cup a week earlier, had the finish of the valuable Lingfield race between them.

With that in mind, I expect four of today's six races at Newcastle to be won by horses with a recent race under their belt. Two of that quartet, DAN THE MILLAR (3.15) and DANISH FLIGHT (3.45), ran in the Waterford Crystal Serenade Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham last Tuesday.

Neither finished in the first 10 behind River Cairlog, but their previous form bears close inspection and the fact that Moon Mariner and Inlander were not sent to the Festival at all is an indication of the high regard in which they are held.

LINGHALL, who won at Cheltenham the first day after racing returned following the cold spell, missed a tempting point-to-point engagement on Saturday to wait for the Cheltenham Novices' Hunter Chase.

Another lady trainer with bright prospects of saddling a winner is Mary Reveley, who is always enjoying her best season when she has an improving handicapper in LUCYLET (4-5).

For the day's best bet, though, I take EMDAR to gain his second win over fences in the 2,150 Dan The Millar Chase. Harry Wharton's seven-year-old best the subsequent Sun Alliance Chase winner, Cross Master, at

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JOCKEYS: G. Bradley, 14 winners from 66 rides, 21.2%; C. Hawley, 18 from 104, 17.3%; T. D. Smith, 18 from 53, 18.1%.

PLUMPTON

TRAINERS: G. Mott, 14 winners from 40 runners, 35.0%; S. Smith Eccles, 13 from 23, 22.6%; R. Emswath, 3 from 15, 20%.

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## Emandar looks in Sangster's grip is threatened

By Mandarin

The result of Saturday's Bic Razor Gold Cup underlined the advantage that horses with a run since the freeze have over those without. Inlander and Moon Mariner, fourth and sixth in the Imperial Cup a week earlier, had the finish of the valuable Lingfield race between them.

With that in mind, I expect four of today's six races at Newcastle to be won by horses with a recent race under their belt. Two of that quartet, DAN THE MILLAR (3.15) and DANISH FLIGHT (3.45), ran in the Waterford Crystal Serenade Novices' Hurdle at Chel



## Lamentations for Irish after blazing spirit and invention

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